

Mubarak pursues Gulf peace bid

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak summoned key aides Sunday to plan a visit to Yugoslavia early next month which he hopes will promote efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement to achieve a Gulf war ceasefire. Officials said in early July that Mr. Mubarak was pushing a new attempt within the Non-Aligned Movement to stop the fighting between Iraq and Iran. In Jeddah last week, a peace committee of Islamic states also renewed peace moves. Egypt and Yugoslavia are founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement to which both Iraq and Iran belong. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Mr. Mubarak's talks with his political group, an inner cabinet, lasted two hours and that he would visit Yugoslavia in the first week of August.

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Israel sentences Palestinian to 30 years in jail

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court in Lod sentenced a 28-year-old Palestinian to 30 years in jail for allegedly placing a bomb under a car which injured a man in the Tel Aviv suburb of Kfar Saba last year. The court also found Ibrahim Mohammad Ali Shant of the occupied West Bank town of Kalkiya guilty of belonging to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Arafat arrives in Malaysia today

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is scheduled to arrive here Monday for a four-day state visit at the invitation of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (King) Tuanku Mahmood Iskandar. Mon Jamaluddin, deputy secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, told reporters Sunday that Mr. Arafat's visit is in line with Malaysia's support for the Palestinian people in their fight against Israel.

Iran soccer captain among 41 executed

PARIS (R) — The Iranian Mujahideen-e-Khalq group said Sunday 41 of its supporters were executed in Tehran's Evin prison last Tuesday, including a former captain of the national soccer team. A statement issued by the group's exiled leader, Massoud Rajavi said it had received reliable reports of the executions from inside Iran. It named Habib Khabiri, 29, described as captain of the Iranian national soccer squad at the 1980 Asian nations' championship in Kuwait, as one of those executed.

Numeiri claims victory over rebels

KHARTOUM (AP) — President Jaafar Numeiri says his forces have managed to regain control of areas along the southeastern border and drive rebels back into Ethiopia. In a speech Saturday broadcast from the eastern regional capital Kassala, Mr. Numeiri accused Ethiopia of harbouring the rebels and called on the Addis Ababa government to follow "our call for peace." Mr. Numeiri said: "Sudan will preserve the principles of good neighbourly relations but at the same time we will not accept a neighbour who meets our sincerity by exporting chaos, subversion and conspiracies."

W. Germany clears Soviet truck

BONN (R) — West Germany and the Soviet Union ended a three-day stalemate over an impounded Moscow-bound truck Friday after Soviet diplomats allowed West German customs men to inspect its nine tonnes of diplomatic cargo. Chief government spokesman Peter Bönisch said the truck was carrying 207 packages which the Soviet Union said contained normal electronic radio, decoding and other equipment originally intended for use at the Soviet United Nations mission in Geneva.

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'Jordanian-Palestinian views now closer than ever' Jordan, PLO near confederal formula, Fateh official says

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are drawing closer to the formulation of a framework for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, a senior PLO official said Sunday.

Hani Al Hassan, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and member of the Central Committee of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement under the PLO umbrella, told the Jordan Times in an interview in Amman that the "political views of Jordan and the PLO are now closer than ever," and that both are "nearing the formulation of a framework for confederal ties."

Mr. Hassan did not elaborate on the basis for the projected Jordanian-Palestinian confederal ties other than saying that an agreement reached last month between five major factions of the PLO in Aden "has laid a clearer basis for Jordanian-Palestinian relations."

The Aden agreement, reached between Fateh on the one hand and a four-faction "democratic alliance" on the other, stipulates that relations between Jordan and the PLO should be based on resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, which call for "confederal ties between Jordan and a future independent Palestinian state." The agreement also rejects all American-sponsored proposals for the Middle East, including President Ronald Reagan's September 1980 initiative which calls for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank in association with Jordan and "any plan that ex-

'Common understanding'

"In the beginning there was no common and identical understanding of Jordanian-Palestinian unity and whether it was a unity between two equal parties or whether it implied that one side belongs to the other," Mr. Hassan said. But now, according to Mr. Hassan, "both sides are nearing a joint, common understanding of the relation."

In the Fateh official's view, Jordan, over the past two years, has



Hani Al Hassan

shown a change in its political outlook. "In the beginning Jordan was open to the U.S. but now it is opening up to Europe and the socialist countries," he said. The PLO views "with satisfaction" Jordan's "changed outlook" because "it means that we are approaching a common political platform," he said.

The PLO, Mr. Hassan said, has reached a decision that its relations with Jordan should "reach a final stage of understanding beyond which there is no separation."

"We strive to make the Jordanian-Palestinian relations a cornerstone in the Arab strategy that cannot be dismissed or ignored," he said.

Mr. Hassan, however, stressed that the strengthening of Jordanian-Palestinian relations is not aimed at forming an axis in the region. "We are aiming to reach a joint political approach which should get the backing of the Arab World, including Syria," he said.

Syrian relations

The Palestinian official revealed that the last round of the ongoing Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue — during the visit of Mr. Arafat to Amman last week — vital issues such as possibilities for a Syrian-Jordanian and a Syrian-

Palestinian rapprochement were discussed and that both Jordan and the PLO welcomed such developments. "Neither the PLO nor Jordan has any sensitivity towards a reconciliation of either with Syria," he said.

"On the contrary, a Syrian-Jordanian reconciliation or a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation will contribute greatly to settling Arab differences and unifying the Arab stance—a goal which we are all aiming at," he said.

In this context, Mr. Hassan announced that the head of the PLO Political Department, Farouk Kaddoumi, is expected to return to Damascus by next week. He also said that Mr. Kaddoumi has told Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that the Fateh leadership is ready to discuss and debate any point which the Syrian government would like to raise concerning bilateral relations or the situation in the Middle East.

Another senior Palestinian official, who asked not to be named, told the Jordan Times last week that the Syrians have told Mr. Kaddoumi that Mr. Arafat's leadership of the PLO was an internal Palestinian issue although "they have their own reservations and opinion about Mr. Arafat."

The official also disclosed that the Syrians have informed Mr. Kaddoumi of "their support for the Aden agreement."

The Aden agreement, however, has been rejected by few Syrian-backed Palestinian factions but the official said that "the pro-Syrian factions' position is contingent on future reconciliation between Syria and Fateh."

Mr. Hassan said Monday that a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue is going to take place in Algiers by the end of the month and will tackle most of these issues.

Shamir cabinet okays three new settlements

TEL AVIV (AP) — One day before national elections, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government Sunday approved plans to build two new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and a third in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Professor Yuval Neeman, chairman of the cabinet committee on settlements, told reporters one of the West Bank settlements was planned to accommodate professional army officers.

The new settlements were cleared through the committee, which has the final say in planning settlements.

In a burst of pre-election act-

ivity, the committee pushed through five more settlements last Sunday — four in the West Bank and one in the Golan Heights of Syria.

The settlement issue was one of the most heatedly debated questions of the three-month campaign leading to Monday's election. Polls show Mr. Shamir's Likud party trailing the opposition Labour Party (See page 2).

Labour says it opposes widespread settlement in the occupied Arab territories, and promises to restrict future settlement activity if it forms the next government.

Arafat: Israel elections will not alter anything

KUWAIT (AP) — Israel's Likud and Labour parties "are two sides of the same coin" and the Arabs should expect no change in the Middle East situation if the Likud was defeated, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying.

"To entertain hopes based on the evening of the Labour Party winning elections is futile, disastrous," Mr. Arafat told the newspaper Al Anbass. "Both Likud and Labour, to me, stand for the same Zionist, expansionist

and ugly entity which the Arabs will have to confront."

He cautioned that the Labour Party's "glib tongue" might enable it to break the international isolation imposed on Israel.

Mr. Arafat apparently meant that the Labourites of Israel would manage to talk the Arabs into accepting a comprehensive peace with the Jewish state.

He said that he intended to visit Egypt again in the near future.

Polls predict Labour victory, page 2

Pakistan denounces suspicions over its nuclear programme

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's finance minister, denouncing what he called a Western campaign to smear his country's nuclear programme, denied again Sunday that Islamabad was building an atomic bomb with Chinese help.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the third cabinet minister to comment recently on the issue, said foreign critics were trying to divert attention from other states believed to be able to detonate an atomic device, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq asked in a speech on July 11

why Israel and South Africa, which like Pakistan have declined to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, were not subject to the same criticism.

"Pakistan is not engaged in any nuclear programme," Mr. Ishaq Khan said. "The People's Republic of China has declared that it does not engage in or subscribe to nuclear proliferation."

Mr. Ishaq Khan, echoing previous denials by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Planning Minister Mahbubul Haq, was speaking to the Federal Advisory Council whose members cal-

led on the government last week to announce that it would build a nuclear bomb.

Mr. Ishaq Khan said the nuclear programme was meant only to fill Pakistan's growing energy gap, which he said could assume catastrophic proportions in coming decades if an efficient energy source such as nuclear energy were not tapped.

Gen. Zia has repeatedly said that Pakistan's secretive nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes, although it could enrich uranium, the first step in building

Egyptian minister arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Minister of Land Reclamation Yusuf Wali arrived here Sunday evening for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. Dr. Wali, who is making the visit at the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said in an arrival statement that he will hold talks with Jordanian officials at the Ministry of Agriculture on co-operation between Egypt and Jordan in plasticulture, drip irrigation and other methods that have proved successful in Jordan. Jordan has made achievements in improved methods of agriculture and Egyptians can benefit from the new technology, he said. At present an agricultural project employing drip irrigation method is being implemented in Egypt with Jordanian expertise, the minister said. During the visit, Dr. Wali is expected to tour agricultural projects in Jordan. Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir and senior officials were at the airport to meet the Egyptian minister.

New police chief for Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree issued Sunday endorsed a cabinet decision to appoint Major-General Diab Yusuf as Director of the Public Security Department.

The appointment of the deputy director of the department, Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Al Amin, as governor at the Interior Ministry was also endorsed.

Also Sunday, King Hussein sent a message to the retiring Public Security Department Director Mohammad Idris paying tribute to his efforts and loyalty throughout his long service in the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security.

"You have set a good example to the two forces through your sacrifice, diligence and dedication, and you carried out your duties with marked excellence, honesty and loyalty," King Hussein said in his message.

The King also thanked Lt.-Gen. Idris for his work and wished him

good health in his retirement. He also announced that he was awarding Lt.-Gen. Idris the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal of the First Order.

Maj.-Gen. Diab, who served as governor at the Interior Ministry, has also been promoted to Lieutenant General, according to a cabinet statement issued Saturday night.

Lt.-Gen. Diab Yusuf had earlier served as the director of police in Amman and in Balqa Governorate before his appointment as governor at the Interior Ministry. Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Ali Al Amin had served as director of police in Karak, and director of the licensing department before becoming deputy director of the Public Security Department. Lt.-Gen. Idris had served as army chief of staff, and King Hussein's military secretary and has also held a number of posts in the civil and military services.



Lt.-Gen. Diab Yusuf

Iraq announces willingness to co-operate with OIC bid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Sunday declared "readiness to co-operate" with the new chairman of the nine-nation Islamic goodwill mission in efforts to end the 46-month-old Gulf war.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said Iraq "expresses full readiness to co-operate with the new chairman of the Islamic goodwill mission in efforts to end the 46-month-old Gulf war."

The Iraqi statement added, also, is "ready to facilitate Jawara's mission and help the goodwill body achieve the noble reason for which it was formed."

The goodwill mission was formed by the Islamic summit conference held at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1981. It comprises president or representatives of Bangladesh, Gambia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Senegal and Turkey in addition to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Jawara, who succeeded the late Guinean President Ahmad Seko Toure to the post of the Islamic goodwill mission's chairman, was reported to be planning visits

soon to both Iraq and Iran to acquaint himself with their respective stands on a peaceful settlement to the Gulf conflict.

Non-aligned efforts

In Jakarta, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said Sunday he had discussed proposals for a non-aligned nations meeting on the Iran-Iraq war with Egypt but no date had yet been fixed for such talks.

Mr. Mochtar told reporters on return from a three-day visit to Egypt that he reiterated Indonesia's support for the proposed talks to discuss ways of ending the 46-month-old Gulf war.

A presidential envoy from Egypt came to Jakarta in May to ask Indonesia to support a non-aligned meeting on the conflict. Mr. Mochtar and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdel Meguid agreed to promote relations between their countries in all sectors, particularly trade and economics.

Mr. Mochtar said he had also discussed Kampuchea and Southeast Asian regional security dur-

ing his visit.

Limited fighting reported

Meanwhile Iraq said its helicopter gunships inflicted heavy losses on Iranian forces east of Basra as both sides Sunday reported further limited ground fighting in the 46-month-old Gulf war.

A military communique issued in Baghdad said formations of gunships attacked Iranian troop concentrations east of the southern port of Basra Saturday night and again Sunday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment.

The communique said all helicopters had returned safely to base.

Both sides reported fighting on the northern front, where Iran said it had repelled a "limited Iraqi offensive" on Friday.

Iraq said its troops had killed 43 Iranian soldiers on the northern front, but it was not clear whether this was the same battle.

Iran also said 25 Iraqis were killed, apparently by artillery fire, west of the Shatt Al Arab waterway on the southern front during the past 24 hours.

Lebanon forms new army unit for deployment in Aley, Shouf

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army command is assembling a new 3,000-man army brigade of Christian, Druze and Muslim soldiers to deploy along the Beirut-Damascus international highway, cutting through the central mountains, officials said Sunday.

The plan is part of an overall security pact to restore government authority to the Aley and Shouf mountains, the site of the heaviest civil war fighting last year and early this year.

Government officials who requested anonymity said army commander Gen. Michel Aoun on Saturday appointed a Druze officer, Col. Amin Kadi, as commander of the new brigade, which is to be known as the 11th Brigade.

The officials said the security plan for the mountains east of Beirut would be completed this week by a six-man military council headed by Gen. Aoun.

The highway links Beirut and Damascus, which are about 110 kilometres apart. It is currently controlled partly by the mainly

Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and partly by the Syrian force in Lebanon.

Rightist militia leaders have said they would veto any security plan for the central mountains if it fails to include agreement for the return of Christian civilian refugees to their homes in the Aley and Shouf areas.

Refugees issue discussed

Reuter adds: Rival militia leaders negotiated Sunday on the return of Christian villagers to the Shouf and Aley mountains, the PSP Radio said.

Under PSP supervision, some Christian families returned recently to the village of Meshref, 20 kilometres south of Beirut, and PSP sources said Sunday's discussions covered the return to the town of Bhandoun, 18 kilometres east of the capital.

PSP radio said party leader Walid Junblatt met the deputy speaker of parliament, a former minister and other Christian leaders in his mountain palace in

Moukhtara.

Militias store weapons

In another development, rival militias have begun collecting and storing their weapons in a further move towards full implementation of a government plan to restore peace to the Lebanese capital.

Lebanese Television showed French and Lebanese observers watching militiamen of the "Lebanese Forces" depositing mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns at a depot in east Beirut.

The Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal and the PSP undertook similar operations in the city's western sector, Beirut Radio said.

The three main militias had already removed their artillery from the "green line" that had divided the city before Prime Minister Rashid Karami's "national unity" government ordered the army to deploy in east and west Beirut on July 4.

ost certainly cover the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan which has created tension along Pakistan's border.

The New China News Agency reported later that Mr. Yaqub Khan said his talks with Mr. Wu would cover several pressing problems, including the Iran-Iraq war, the unsettled Middle East situation, Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

The exchanges of visits between China and Pakistan had become a well-established tradition, he told the agency.

W. German foreign minister ends visit to Tehran Genscher to tell EC Iran is ready for co-operation

TEHRAN (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher ended a two-day visit to Tehran Sunday and sources close to his delegation said he would tell other members of the European Community Iran was ready to seek closer co-operation with the West.

The sources said Mr. Genscher, who left by air for Bonn, would tell community foreign ministers in Brussels Monday Iran had taken a decision to open up to the West. The seizure of hostages in the United States embassy in Tehran in 1979 led to a Western economic boycott of Iran, which in turn has treated both Eastern and Western power blocs with suspicion.

Iran gave no indication Sunday it had changed its policy, and the English-language newspaper Kayhan International opposed any such move.

The friends, supporters and sympathisers of the Islamic Revolution in Iran must be sure that Iranian policy-makers have not adopted a Westward policy, as they had not adopted an Eastward policy in the past," it said.

Mr. Genscher's spokesman said the minister had argued that this gave Tehran and Bonn the right to be open and frank in their discussions.

This led to an agreement with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to set up a seminar to discuss capital punishment after Mr. Genscher had expressed concern on the issue.

Iran argued that human rights were seen differently in an Islamic society and that the issue should be discussed from a scientific point of view.

The only other concrete result of the two-day visit was to schedule for September a review of existing investments when both sides could raise complaints and problems.

While Iranian leaders said the five-to-one imbalance of trade in West Germany's favour should be redressed, Mr. Genscher offered "as partial compensation" West German help in training the thousands of engineers badly needed in Iran.

Both sides express satisfaction with the visit.

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Jordan seeks Arab debate on manpower

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan has asked the Arab League to include the subject of employing only Arab manpower in implementing Arab development projects in an agenda for the Arab Social and Economic Council meeting to be held in Amman from Aug. 27 until Aug. 30th.

The Jordanian request contained in a memo sent to the Arab League headquarters here, also asked that joint Arab programmes be drawn up for vocational training and planning so that Arab workers can replace foreigners.

The memo said that Arab workers could be made to take over jobs from foreign workers in all joint Arab projects and in a gradual and well-planned manner.

Also in Tunis, the Arab League General Secretariat has sent out memos to Arab countries asking them to supply it with topics they wish to be included in the agenda

of the Arab League's 82nd ordinary session due to open on Sept. 13.

On the agenda of the council's meeting are subjects that were originally proposed by Arab foreign ministers.

These include Israeli plans to move refugees from their present camps to other areas in the occupied Arab lands and the Dead Sea-Mediterranean Canal.

Also on the agenda are ways for supporting African liberation movements, Israel's trade links with Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore, and Brazil's plans to buy Israeli-made war planes. Other topics include the establishment of an Arab institute for translation, a special fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon and rebuilding Palestinian refugee camps, and ways to support the steadfastness of people under Israeli rule.

European Community increases aid to UNRWA

VIENNA (UNRWA) — The European Community (EC) is to provide additional cash assistance and food aid to UNRWA under a convention signed in Brussels on July 13, a press release issued here by the agency said.

The convention provides cash aid, earmarked for United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) elementary education programme, in the amount of 16 million European Currency units (ECUs) for 1984 and 17 million ECUs in each of 1985 and 1986. At rates fixed on July 4, \$1 (1.26176 ECUs).

The agreement also establishes the level of EC food aid for distribution to UNRWA registered "special hardship cases" (especially needy Palestinian refugees who receive basic rations) as well as for use in the agency's supplementary feeding programme for children and in catering for the vocational-training and teacher-training centres operated by UNRWA, the press release said.

On July 12, the European Community's Food Aid Committee had approved quantities of commodities for 1984 — including skim milk, butter-oil and sugar — representing a significant

increase over the 1983 levels.

Expressing his appreciation to the EC Commissioner for Development, Edgard Pisani, UNRWA's Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said most of the agency's need for more food aid arose from the crisis in Lebanon, where there were three times as many registered special hardship cases as before the 1982 Israeli invasion, and where UNRWA intends to continue its midday meal programme for children up to age 15.

The European Community and its member states jointly are the second largest donor to UNRWA, which derives virtually all its income from contributions by governments and organisations world-wide. In 1983, EC contributions worth \$42 million represented over 20 per cent of UNRWA's budget. So far, the Community has pledged \$41 million for UNRWA's regular 1984 programmes.

UNRWA offers health, education and relief services to more than 2 million registered Palestine refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic, occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shamir, Arens to decide on Beirut liaison office

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet, at its last meeting before Monday's general election, Sunday authorised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens to decide whether to close Israel's liaison office near Beirut, a cabinet statement said.

It added that the cabinet heard military intelligence reports on the situation in Lebanon.

Lebanese Defence Minister Abdul Osseiran severed official links with the bureau on July 18.

Official sources in Beirut said the head of the Lebanese liaison team, Col. Fawzi Abu Farhat, had informed his Israeli counterpart that Lebanon wanted Israel to close the bureau, a four-storey villa overlooking the Mediterranean in the Christian village of Dbaiyeh north of Beirut.

Israeli officials deny having received a formal Lebanese request to close the office.

They say they would probably have to accede to an official Lebanese request.

Ferraro is lacking on Mideast, ADC says

WASHINGTON (ADC) — Following the announcement of Walter Mondale's selection of New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro as his choice for a vice presidential running mate, Dr. James Zogby, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's (ADC) executive director, issued the following statement:

"Ms. Ferraro's historical positions on the Middle East are compatible with those of Walter Mondale. Therefore, we view the Democratic ticket as not offering any hope for a change in U.S. Middle East policy. Ms. Ferraro's voting record in Congress reflects a total lack of balance and no concern for Arab-U.S. relations.

"While this is disappointing, what is equally of concern to us is the extent to which Mondale, in making his announcement, sought to reject Rev. Jesse Jackson, thus confirming our sense that Mondale is too beholden to the Israeli lobby to provide any creative leadership for the U.S. in dealing with the Arab World."

ADC's Research Institute com-

piled the following information about Ms. Ferraro's voting record:

— Quoted as telling recent AIPAC conference that she was "disgusted" by the recent U.S. sale of Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia.

— Signed letters to Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger urging him to get military information obtained during Israel's invasion of Lebanon. (March 1983)

— Signed letters to President Mubarak urging him to return Egyptian ambassador to Israel. (October 1983)

— Signed letter urging President Reagan to release \$166 to Israel. (February-April 1983)

— Opposed arms sales to Jordan. (November 1983)

— Voted against AWACs to Saudi Arabia. (October 1981)

— Voted for emergency relief aid to Lebanon. (June 1982)

— Voted for Lebanon-Israel agreement. (May 1983)

— Voted for supplemental aid to Lebanon. (June 1983)

— Voted against deploying Marines for 18 months in Lebanon. (September 1983)

— Voted for Long amendment to cut funding for Multinational Force as of March 1, 1984. (November 1983)

— Voted for Long-Kemp amendment to increase aid to Israel by \$425 million and to use up to \$550 million for Israeli arms industry. (November 1983)

— Co-sponsor of legislation to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

— Voted against Rahall amendment to delete funds for the Israeli jet Lavi.

Polls predict Labour victory as Israel holds elections today

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's election campaign wound up Sunday with opinion polls suggesting Monday's vote will result in another multi-party coalition.

With the country in deep economic crisis, all polls predicted the Labour opposition would come out on top but would need the support of four or five small parties to command a majority.

Newspapers voiced concern the election would produce another weak government. The ruling right-wing Likud Bloc was topped last March because a coalition partner refused to accept austerity measures.

A Jerusalem Post poll gave Labour a 48-41 seat lead over Likud with the other seats in the 120-member parliament being shared out among 12 parties. Two other polls put the gap between the main parties at only six seats.

Following past elections, it has sometimes taken months of bargaining to put together a government.

In a final televised appeal, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir repeated his call for a Likud-Labour national unity coalition, excluding small parties, Labour leader Shimon Peres, dismissing Likud as a failure, said he wanted a decisive mandate for a new government.

The independent Haaretz said in an editorial that Israel desperately needed a clear-cut result so that the next government could function properly.

Despite divisions over the Lebanon war and Middle East peace initiatives, the campaign has been dominated by economic issues. A wave of strikes over wages has highlighted worker unrest.

With inflation running at 400 per cent, a big trade deficit and massive foreign debt, economists say whatever wins must take urgent measures. Fears of price rises brought a last-minute shopping rush for subsidised goods such as meat.

Likud has countered criticism of its economic policy by saying it has raised the living standards of poorer Israelis, especially Sephardim (oriental Jews), bringing consumer goods such as video-recorders into thousands of homes.

It has strongly defended the Lebanon invasion and emphasised its determination to plant a Jewish population on occupied Arab land by speeding up the settlement programme during the final weeks of the campaign.

Three new settlements were dedicated in the Gaza Strip Sunday. Government ministers held a final meeting to approve the building of three more in the strip and the West Bank.

Labour, which ruled Israel without interruption until Likud took power in 1977, has focused on domestic issues, reminding voters that inflation was only 28 per cent when it left office.

It promised to slash government expenditure by speedily withdrawing the army from Lebanon, halting the settlement drive and ending handouts to religious parties.

Anxious to woo hesitant Likud voters, Labour was reluctant to criticise the Lebanon war and did not spell out its plans to revive the stalled Mideast peace drive. Unlike Likud, Labour says it would be prepared to hand back some occupied Arab land.

Analysts said the campaign was unexpectedly bland and lacked charismatic figures such as former Premier Menachem Begin, now living as a recluse. There was no violence on the scale of the last election in 1981.

Soldiers serving in South Lebanon went to the polls Sunday, casting ballots in mobile voting stations. The rest of the 2.6 million electorate will vote between 0700 and 2200 (1900 GMT) Monday. Minutes later state television will issue a computer prediction based on a polling booth survey.

Twenty-five parties are standing and opinion polls report as many as 15 could win seats. They range from Moscow-line Communists to Rabbis and ultra-nationalists who want to drive out Israel's 600,000 Arabs.

The far-right Tehiya (Rebirth), which champions Jewish settlement in the West Bank, is widely expected to establish itself as the third largest party with six or seven seats.

Bickering religious parties, ever present in Israeli governments, are running on four separate lists.

The New Yabed (Together) Party of former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman is expected to play a key role in coalition negotiations.

Polls say its projected three or four seats could tilt the balance of power to either Labour or Likud. Mr. Weizman, who wants to promote a dialogue with Arab states, is reported already to have been in touch with the main parties.

Newspapers have repeatedly speculated that the popular war hero could take the toughest portfolio of all — the Finance Ministry.

Rafsanjani considering Saudi invitation

TEHRAN (R) — One of Iran's top clergyman-politicians says he has not ruled out accepting an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia next month and the question is still under consideration.

The official news agency IRNA quoted Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying Saturday night no decision had yet been made about the invitation.

Iran reported last week that Saudi Arabia had asked Mr. Rafsanjani, spokesman of Iran's war cabinet and speaker of the Majlis (parliament), to visit the kingdom

during the annual Muslim pilgrimage (Hajj) to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Speaking to West German journalists, Mr. Rafsanjani said Saturday night "this has only been an expression of interest by them and a well-intended reaction on our part."

He added, "the initial invitation for me to go to Hajj has been extended by an unidentified Saudi Arabian official ... we said such visits could be useful."

"Of course if the matter became serious more discussions could be

held."

Diplomats in Tehran said a visit would be a conciliatory move over months of tension in the Gulf over attacks on ships.

But they said Iran would be weighing any political disadvantage in sending one of their senior men to Saudi Arabia and preparations before such a visit would probably take a long time to complete.

Mr. Rafsanjani said "there is a chance but not much" of a Saudi role in ending the war by ceasing its aid to Iraq.

Moderate Iranians want exiled aide to negotiate peace, newspaper says

LONDON (R) — Britain's Observer newspaper said Sunday that a group of worried Iranian moderates that included three National Assembly members had secretly asked an exiled former defence minister to return and negotiate an end to the Gulf war with Iraq.

The Observer said an Iranian delegation disguised as a trade mission held 10 hours of talks in West Germany recently with Admiral Ahmad Madani. It returned with his conditions and undercover contacts were continuing.

Iran's leaders have expressed their determination to fight on and bring down the Iraqi government. The Observer said the approach to

Adm. Madani was a measure of growing discontent within Iran over the long-running conflict.

Adm. Madani, who fled Iran in 1980, told the Observer he was willing to return on condition the country's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini stood aside or changed his policies.

He would only agree to negotiate if Khomeini gave him full powers to end the 46-month-old war and a majority in parliament endorsed the idea.

"We must end the war. If the ayatollah invites me to play a role I will accept," he was quoted as saying.

Adm. Madani, 55, who was also Iran's navy commander and a losing candidate in the 1980 presidential election, said he had writ-

ten to Khomeini but had so far received no reply.

The Observer quoted Adm. Madani, currently on a visit to London, as saying that if he was not officially invited to return to Iran he would continue building up support until he was strong enough to return clandestinely and seize power.

The Observer said Adm. Madani did not contest the religious basis of Iran's Islamic Revolution but did contest its domination by what he called religious fascism.

He said his disagreement with Khomeini was ideological and not personal. "I believe he is on the wrong course and I want to correct it before it is too late," he said.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz	630, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:30 Koran	06:00 Newsday 06:30 Swinging Sixties
17:40 Children's Programmes	06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections
18:00 Dear Enemy	07:00 World News 07:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
18:25 A special programme on the anniversary of Egypt's Revolution of July 23	07:30 Sing a Song of London 07:45 200 Walk 08:30 Newsday 08:35 Baker's Half Dozen 09:00 World News 09:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
19:20 Programme Review	09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Village 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 The World Today 08:25 Book Matthews: Contemporary 12:30 Counterpoint 12:30 World News 12:35 News About Britain 12:45 An Ice-Cream War 12:50 Omnibus 14:00 Radio Newsday 14:15 Britain 1984 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
20:00 News in Arabic	15:30 Swinging Sixties 15:45 Journey Into Hope 16:30 At the Piano 17:00 Radio Newsday 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Wimbledon '84 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Radio Newsday 19:15 The Foullye Sign 19:30 Kenneth Matthews 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsday 20:30 Twelve Good Men and True 21:00 Outlook 21:05 Football Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Football Choice 22:00 World News 22:05 Newsday 22:30 Sports International 23:00 Network UK 23:15 Wimbledon Report 23:30 Counterpoint 24:00 World News 06:00 The World Today 06:25 Book Choice 06:30 Financial News 06:45 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up
21:00 News in Arabic	
22:00 News in English	VOICE OF AMERICA
22:15 Love Boat	MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9585, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW	
07:00 Light Music	06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary analysis; viewpoints; features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Music USA standards 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Music USA standards 21:00 Newsline 21:30 Magazine Show 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report
07:30 Newsday	
08:00 Morning Show	
10:00 News Summary	
10:05 Morning Show	
11:00 Pop Session	
12:00 News Summary	
12:05 Pop Session	
13:00 News Summary	
13:05 Pop Session	
14:00 News Bulletin	
14:10 Instruments	
14:30 Over a Cup of Tea	
15:00 Concert Hour	
16:00 News Summary	
16:05 Instruments	
16:30 Old Favorites	
17:00 Classical Show Case	
17:30 Pop Session	
18:00 News Summary	
18:05 Sports Round-up	
18:30 Arabian Nights	
19:00 Newsday	
19:30 Date with a Star	
20:00 Evening Show	
21:00 News Summary	
21:05 News Summary	
21:30 News Summary	
21:55 News Summary	
22:00 News Summary	
24:00 News Headlines	

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
"Les Peintres Cinesastes" at the French Cultural Centre.	Exhibition of photographs "Warsaw Between Yesterday and Today" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
FILM	"Le Bossu" at the French Cultural Centre at 10:30 a.m. for children.
VIDEOS	"Le Lys Dans La Vallée" at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.
"American Odyssey" about sports at the American Centre at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre ... 6610267	American Centre ... 44371
American Centre ... 44371	British Council ... 36147-R
French Cultural Centre ... 37009	Soviet Cultural Centre ... 44203
Goethe Institute ... 41993	Spanish Cultural Centre ... 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 39777	Haya Arts Centre ... 665195
Y.W.C.A. ... 41793	Y.W.C.A. ... 664251
Y.W.M.C.A. ... 664251	Amman Municipal Library ... 36111
University of Jordan Library ... 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliff). 41781. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures.	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Airia information department at the Jordanian International Airport tel. (08) 532520, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

05:50	Cairo (MS)
09:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran (RJ)
10:10	Larissa, Damascus (RJ)
10:10	Beirut (RJ)
11:30	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
12:30	Muscat, Dubai, Bahrain (GF)
14:40	Kuwait (RJ)
15:10	Beirut, Medina (SV)
17:00	Balgrade, Istanbul (UJ)
17:00	Athens (RJ)
17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:30	Cairo (RJ)
18:30	Balgrade (RJ)
18:30	Beirut (MEA)
18:40	Casablanca, Tunis (J)
20:50	Cairo (MS)
22:30	Baghdad (IA)
00:45	Baghdad (IA)
06:45	Baghdad (RJ)
01:00	London, Baghdad (BA)

DEPARTURES

05:45	Cairo (RJ)
05:30	Beirut (RJ)
06:50	Cairo (MS)
07:15	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Athens (OA)
11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
11:30	Vifne, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
12:15	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30	Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:30	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
13:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:10	Kuwait (RJ)
16:25	Istanbul, Bahrain (RJ)
16:40	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
19:30	Kuwait, Dubai (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:15	Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:15	Baghdad (RJ)
20:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

—	Roman Razinski
—	Slovenia
—	Three Kar
—	Gina S
—	Burgundy
—	Aleksa Dundic
—	Farah One
—	Elchor
—	Lady Serena
—	Saint Remy

Amia Kewar and Sons Company, Tel: 23234 (on line) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in Sls

Belgian franc	66.2	66.6
Dutch guilder	118.6	119.3
Egyptian guinea	306.6	312.1
French franc	245.6	243.9
Irish shilling	3.94	3.85
Italian lire (for 100)	21.8	22
Japanese yen (for 100)	156.6	156.9
Kuwaiti dinar	1277	1281.3
Lebanese lira	62.6	63.5
Omani rial	107.5	108.3
Saudi riyal	104.5	105.2
Swedish crown	108.9	109.3
Swiss franc	15.8	158.9
Syrian lire	48	48.7
Turkish Lira	104	104.6
U.K. sterling pound	506.8	509.8
U.S. dollar	383	385
W. German mark	133.6	134.4

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Lowlight temperature in deg. C

Amman	18/29
Aqaba	22/26
Deserts	17/33
Jordan Valley	21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38, Hauran 36, Hauran 33, Jerash 33, Petra 33, Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez, 'Oweidat meet Iraqi ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan Sunday met with Mr. Akel Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament. They discussed bilateral relations and co-operation in parliamentary-related affairs. Earlier, Mr. Sultan met with Minister of Culture and Youth Abdullah 'Oweidat and discussed Iraqi-Jordanian co-operation in cultural and youth affairs and the possibility of holding an Iraqi book exhibition and an Iraqi cultural week in Amman.

Tawjihi results expected today

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Examinations at the Ministry of Education Ahmad Al Bashairah will hold a press conference Monday to announce the results of the Tawjihi examinations for the 1983/84 scholastic year. The results will be distributed to various schools in Jordan Monday morning, a ministry spokesman said.

Building materials centre planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works is currently preparing studies and designs for the establishment of a new centre to conduct research on roads and is also planning laboratories to test the quality of material used in the building of roads in Jordan. A ministry spokesman said that invitations were sent out to various organisations that have similar laboratories to attend a meeting devoted to consultation about the plans for future co-operation with the ministry.

Picnickers, swimmers cautioned

SALT (Petra) — The public security department here has issued an appeal to vacationers to take extra precautions in order to avoid fires in woods and other regions covered with dry grass. It also advised citizens to keep away from dams, pools and swampy areas and refrain from swimming because of the dangers involved. The statement was issued in the wake of several fires and drowning accidents in Balqa Governorate. The statement also said that a total of 182 such accidents occurred in the first half of this year and trees planted on an area of 350 dunums were burnt.

New representative for British Council

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Council has announced the appointment of David Latta as the representative of the British Council in Jordan. Mr. Latta, who was educated at the University of Cambridge, joined the British Council in 1965 and served as Assistant Representative in Tunisia, Pakistan, Lebanon and Tanzania. In 1979 Mr. Latta became an internal management adviser, a job which took him to 16 countries in five years on short advisory assignments.

Health minister to meet public

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni will meet Monday with citizens and leading social figures in Al Naser district to talk about health services in the country. The dialogue comes as part of the local community development centre in Haman cultural season to promote health and social awareness among citizens and to establish confidence between the official and citizens.

AFFI to attend meeting in Morocco

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Federation of Food Industries (AFFI) will take part in an Arab meeting on packing and packaging due to open Monday in Casablanca, Morocco. AFFI Secretary General Fahad Jaber said that the meeting is a follow up to one held in Amman in April. The AFFI will submit a study on the prospects of implementing joint Arab projects and on reviving the work of a pan-Arab committee for packing and packaging which is based in Amman, Dr. Jaber said. The week-long Casablanca meeting will discuss packaging and use of containers and packets as an essential element in promoting inter-Arab trade exchange, Dr. Jaber added.

Irbid projects reviewed

IRBID (Petra) — Projects being implemented in Irbid Governorate were discussed here Sunday at a meeting chaired by Mr. Fayez Abbadi, Irbid's acting governor. The meeting which included the director of public works and other officials reviewed a report and a survey of these projects. The projects will be subject for study at an enlarged meeting to be held in Amman Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. Mu'az Bilbeisi, under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works.



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Sunday addresses government officials in Aqaba in a meeting attended by (to Mr. 'Obeidat's right) Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, Transport

Minister Taher Hikmat, Minister of Industry and Trade and Tourism Jawad Anani and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Hamdallah Nabulsi (Petra photo)

Red Crescent president to visit Soviet Union

AMMAN (Petra) — The president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) will go to Moscow Tuesday on a week-long visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies.

Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, who will be accompanied by two leading society members, will discuss an international peace conference due to be held in Finland and Sweden in September. He will also discuss ways of bolstering Jordanian-Soviet relations in humanitarian affairs.

Dr. Abu Qoura recently chaired meetings of a standing committee representing Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Arab World.

The committee, which ended its meetings in Amman Sunday, decided to hold a course on ways of publicising the international humanitarian law early next year and recommended that rewards be presented to those persons who contribute effectively towards promoting the work of humanitarian societies, Dr. Abu Qoura said.

First industrial festival aims to promote national products

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 30-day industrial festival scheduled to open in Jordan on Aug. 11 is designed to promote the production and domestic marketing of national industrial products, the festival's director Mr. Ahmad Odeh, said here Saturday.

He said that the festival, the first of its kind to be held in the country, will open on the 33rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, and is designed to highlight the industrial progress made in Jordan during his reign.

The occasion will be an open invitation to Jordanian citizens to buy locally produced commodities and is intended to build bridges of confidence between employers, employees and labourers who

from the infrastructure of industry, Mr. Odeh said at a meeting with the press.

During the festival marches will be organised, seminars will be held and displays of various industries and products will be staged.

Also industrial exhibitions will be organised in co-operation with the federation of Jordanian labour unions which will organise tours of Jordanian factories, he said. These activities will be held in various towns in Jordan between Aug. 11 and Sept. 11, Mr. Odeh added.

The main industrial exhibition will be held at the Housing Bank complex in Amman and both citizens and merchants will be invited to inspect the various products on display, said Mr. Odeh.

USAID delegation reviews co-operative agriculture plans

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sunday held talks with the director of the Jordan Co-operative Bank, Mr. Ghaleb Al Qalqili, on financing a project to develop rain-fed regions and upland areas in Jordan.

He explained the role played by the Co-operative Bank and other lending institutions in promoting agricultural production through the financing of various agricultural schemes in the country.

Mr. Qalqili briefed the delegation on the loans that are being channelled through the Co-

Sharaf meets news agencies representative

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Lail Sharaf conferred here Sunday with the visiting secretary general of the Arab News Agencies Union (ANAU), Dr. Farid Ayar. They discussed the ANAU's activities and its co-operation with news agencies and press organisations in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa.

Dr. Ayar briefed the minister on the achievements of the union and preparations underway for holding an international conference of world news agencies due to be held in Prague in November.

Mrs. Sharaf voiced Jordan's support for the union's activities and objectives and expressed her appreciation for its co-operation with Arab news agencies. The meeting was attended by Jawad Maraga, the director of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Maraga had earlier met with Dr. Ayar who arrived here Sunday for talks on a number of issues concerning the ANAU and to discuss a conference for Arab news agencies to be held in Amman in September.

Representatives discuss ways to handle students' applications

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives from the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and the Ministry of Communications held a meeting here Sunday to discuss means of forwarding students' applications to the universities through the post offices in Jordan.

For the past five years post offices have handled applications by students wishing to continue their education in Jordanian universities. According to Mr. Mohammad Saleh 'Obeidat, acting under-secretary at the Ministry of Communications, post applications continue to receive applications and forward them to the respective universities.

The date for receiving applications through post offices will be fixed once the results of tawjihi examinations are announced, he said.

Industrial zone, improved public services planned

'Obeidat calls for co-operation in Aqaba development plan

AQABA (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat has instructed the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) to start work on plans to organise the poor districts in Aqaba. These plans should be worked out in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Housing Corporation and should provide public sewers and improve water supplies, the prime minister said.

group representatives from the ministries of health and municipal and rural affairs, he said.

Development impetus

The prime minister expressed hope that the meeting would mark the start of a series of meetings designed to give impetus to development and progress in Aqaba.

Mr. Abu Nawar briefed the meeting on the achievements of ARA since its establishment five months ago. He also outlined the ARA's development programmes.

Ministers and directors of departments, who spoke later, presented briefings on their programmes for developing the Aqaba region.

Aqaba Mayor Saleh Al Kabarit said that the local inhabitants were looking forward to the implementation of the ARA's projects and he presented a number of requests he had received from Aqaba citizens.

Mr. 'Obeidat, accompanied by several cabinet members, arrived here Saturday evening on a two-day inspection visit and for meetings with local officials. This is Mr. 'Obeidat's first inspection visit to Aqaba since he was appointed prime minister earlier this year.

Mr. 'Obeidat was speaking at a meeting here attended by several cabinet members and directors of local government departments as well as the city's mayor and ARA Director Mohammad Sa'id Abu Nawar.

'Obeidat added:

'Team spirit'

Referring to the administrative and technical obstacles impeding the work of the ARA, Mr. 'Obeidat said that these can be solved once the good intentions, mutual trust, sincerity and loyalty are established as a working basis. "Projects should be carried out with a team spirit because the responsibility is common, and therefore co-operation is essential if success is to be achieved," the prime minister said.

Mr. 'Obeidat also expressed his satisfaction with the measures taken by the Aqaba Port Authority for the protection of environment and the steps to clean the area around the port. He urged ARA staff to establish a section to handle environmental problems at the port. This would



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdallah Al Nabulsi (centre) meets with mayors and representatives from municipal and village councils in the Ajloun area for discussions on public services and projects (Petra photo)

Nabulsi discusses projects, services with Ajloun local council officials

AJLOUN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdallah Al Nabulsi said here that his ministry will shortly issue new regulations concerning buildings which will help municipalities overcome difficulties in handling violations.

Speaking during a tour of a number of towns and villages in the Ajloun district, Mr. Nabulsi said that municipal and village councils should not delay the collection of revenues and taxes from the local inhabitants since the funds are needed for improving public services.

He urged heads of councils "to build bridges of co-operation and confidence with inhabitants by

holding seminars where local problems can be discussed and ways of settling issues can be found."

The ministry and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) have drawn up plans for building sewers in major towns since these projects are essential for public health, the minister said. He added that the councils' authority over the distribution of water will be referred to the WAJ.

The ministry, in co-operation with the Cities and Villages Development Bank, has made plans for financing development projects undertaken by municipal and village councils in order to help these councils carry out their public services in the best possible

way," Mr. Nabulsi said. At the start of his tour of the towns of Ajloun, Anjara, 'Ain Jana, Sakhra, Ibbin and Tbilin the minister opened a training course for municipality accountants in Ajloun.

The course, organised in co-operation with Yarmouk University, is designed to train the participants in applying regulations, municipality budgets and other related topics.

Afterwards the minister held a meeting with mayors of the towns he toured and discussed with them the situation in their area and the problems that need to be solved as well as projects to be given priority.

Mona Saudi uses native materials, warm forms in her first American exhibition

WASHINGTON — "A sculptor doesn't choose subjects deliberately, it happens spontaneously," says Mona Saudi. The noted Jordanian sculptress is currently in the United States where her first American exhibition is on display this month at Washington's Alif Gallery.

Ms. Saudi shapes her material — smooth marble, limestone or granite — into small, curvilinear forms representing the energy between man and woman, between the human body and the and from which the stone originates. The sculptures are warmly rounded forms — seedlike, egglike, shapes that compel the viewer to reach out and touch them.

She encourages human interaction with her work and wants people to touch the sculptures. "I think art should be meaningful and profound," she says. "I believe there is a relation between the human being and sculpture. Since it gives meaning to life, I think it should be something that gives a positive meaning to the individual."

Mona Saudi works exclusively with materials native to her environment, including pink limestone from Irbid, green marble from Jericho, turquoise rocks with multicoloured veins from the reach of Aqaba, dark grey diorite from Aleppo, and wild-rose-coloured marble from the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. "My marble comes from all

ART REVIEW

hness and colour," she says.

As an artist, Ms. Saudi explains, her aim is to emphasise the power of life against the power of destruction. "We have around us a lot of crime, war and destruction," she says. "I stand against these forces even though they are a great power in our civilisation." She says that even during the Lebanese war, when she was living in that country, "I worked on the things I believed in — seed, womb, mother, birth — in spite of the war around us."

Mona Saudi's Washington exhibition also includes samples of black and white silkscreen drawings. She says that the drawings help her expand her ideas beyond the solid and smooth shapes of her stone sculptures. "The composition and forms in my drawings emphasise different ideas," she

points out. "With the sculpture I do the outside shape. I try to arrive at very simple forms. In drawings I take more liberties and make more complicated elements. In a drawing my subjects and interior spirit are the same, but they look different."

The artist also expresses herself through poetry and essays. "I write poetry whenever I feel I wish to write, but I am a professional sculptor, not a professional poet."

Alif is an innovative new art gallery which opened several months ago. It is the first gallery in the U.S. devoted exclusively to the works of Arab artists and features exhibits by prominent artists and promising newcomers from the Arab World.

A spokesperson for Alif said gallery officials contacted Ms. Saudi last summer and invited her to exhibit her sculptures in the U.S.

"Ms. Saudi is one of the foremost woman sculptors of the Arab World and we wanted to introduce her to American audiences," the spokesperson said, adding that visitors to Alif "are favourably impressed by the works. Both the paintings and the sculptures are very well conceived and structured."

Mona Saudi was born in Amman, Jordan, in 1945. She is a graduate of the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Between 1969 and 1982 she lived in Beirut. She currently makes her home in

Amman. Her artwork has been featured in solo exhibitions in Paris, Beirut and Amman and in collective exhibitions in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

She is currently working on large scale sculptures for public spaces. Last year she created one such piece from granite for the Petra Bank building in Amman.

Translations of Mona Saudi's poetry have appeared in "Women of the Fertile Crescent," Modern Poetry by Arab Women," Edited by Kamal Boullata. Poems and essays have also appeared in Arabic literary magazines including "Mawqif," "Shir," and "Al Karmel."



Mona Saudi

Finance wizard in Middle East to launch 'basket' currency fund

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In 1981, one man was responsible for launching a sterling denominated currency fund which appreciated by more than 60 per cent in three years and has attracted more than £100 million worth of funds from investors.

Graham Fortescue 46, is now visiting the Middle East in connection with a second currency fund launched in London in January, in which investors may choose sterling or dollar denominated shares.

At present, Mr. Fortescue, chairman of Vanbrugh Fund Marketing International, has two sales managers in the region spending some weeks in the Arabian Gulf, and have been regular visitors to the area for the past three years.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Fortescue said the purpose of his visit to the region is to meet and talk with his representatives in the various countries, to examine in detail the market for his company and to

offer "products" such as life assurance, as well as examining the possibility of joint ventures with Arab financial institutions.

Basket fund

Mr. Fortescue said that investors in his currency fund would benefit from investing over a basket of currencies instead of one currency as is usually the case. The main currencies he deals in are the dollar, sterling, deutchmark and yen.

"When you invest in a basket of currencies instead of one," Mr. Fortescue said, "if one currency should drop, it is unlikely that the other two or three currencies will drop, hence reducing the risk of losing."

Mr. Fortescue said that 20 per cent of the money invested in the new currency fund project came from the Middle East. "The interest is growing rapidly and the investment flow is rising in proportion," he said.

Referring to the "tragedy of the Iran-Iraq war", he said that the

world seems to be going through a period of great uncertainty. "There is unrest in many other parts of the world; high interest rates in the United States are upsetting international trade, exchange rates and the global economy," According to him, this has depressed share prices, equity funds and related investments.

At times like these, Mr. Fortescue said, institutional investors are finding that currency provides the more stable return.

Shifting market

Responding to a question, Mr. Fortescue said that at the outset, currency funds were directed towards the American, European or other expatriates working in another country — people with both short term and long term contracts who are using their stay in the Middle East to save money and to earn a profit from their savings.

He pointed out, however, that he sees this changing. As the number of Arab graduates increases and they enter management and

supervisory positions, "we are seeing the development of a new professional class."

"Such people have high incomes, good opportunities and high aspirations," he added.

Mr. Fortescue said that his investors, at present, benefit when the dollar is strong, from high interest rates in which dollar funds are placed. "As soon as the dollar starts to fall, we move into another currency," he pointed out.

Mr. Fortescue said he could see a strong dollar and high interest rates in the U.S. until after the presidential elections.

"There is international pressure on the Americans to reduce interest rates, so we will see an easing of the dollar over the next few months and most probably a steady decline going into 1985."

In an article published in the Daily Telegraph newspaper in Britain recently, the U.S. secretary of commerce was quoted as saying "It is time to kiss the dollar goodbye. By this time next year, the dollar will be down by 10 or 20 per cent."

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State divided, future uncertain

ISRAELIS go to the polls today divided on the kind of future they want for themselves and their state. The outcome is far from certain, although, for Israel, almost everything is at stake.

A Labour win will presumably give to the Israelis some hope that all their wars and "sacrifices" with the Arabs were not lost, and that peace is possible to attain after all the enmity, suffering and bloodshed of many years. Territory could be exchanged for peace, and if the balance is right, some settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict could be found.

Not so with the die-hards of Israeli politics: The Likud, Tehiya and their other versions. In case they win, the Arabs will not necessarily lose. Only the moderates on both sides will.

A Likud victory in today's elections, unlikely as it may at the moment seem, will remove the West Bank and Gaza as the focal issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It will make the whole of Palestine the issue. It will be them or us. And no matter when, it will not be them. Students of history know why.

A Likud victory will not bring the Arabs to their knees — to negotiate or make peace. With the Likud, there will be nothing to negotiate about. Rather, the Arabs will strive to unite and will strengthen their will to fight. They will at least maintain their economic blockade of the Zionist state, if not step it up and expand it. They will lobby harder with their friends and put pressure on those who sympathise with their enemy.

The extremists in the Arab World will, with time, gain the upper hand. And Shamir and Sharon will probably have to learn how to live with Abu Nidals and Qadhafi on the doorstep — and inside. The mentality of siege will remain with the Israelis, in their fortress state. Tension will not ease, inflation will not go away, and hardships will not disappear. The Likudniks can have more land, but only for less years. Their future will always be insecure.

The picture may not be as black and white as all that, and the Israeli elections today may not be as crucial as they sound. Tomorrow, however, the Israelis will drop a good hint where they like their future to lie.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iran lets Muslims down

THE IRANIAN regime has decided not to give an opportunity to the Islamic mediation mission to try to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq and has turned down bids for a negotiated settlement. Of course this outright rejection that was coupled with threats to escalate the war is disappointing, and gives cause for pessimism regarding a speedy end to the bloodshed and the fighting among Muslim brothers.

The Islamic mediation reflects the desire of millions of Muslims and Arabs to see that peace restored in the Gulf and fighting ceasing among brothers so that stability and peace can be restored permanently. The Muslim masses want to mobilise all their manpower and material resources for confronting the Zionist challenges and for liberating their usurped holy places in Palestine.

The Iranian leaders ought to respect the wish and desires of the Muslim masses everywhere and should welcome peace bids and end the war with Iraq. The whole world bears witness to the situation and realises that Iraq has been extending a hand of peace to Iran which had turned it down as it turned down many peace bids by the U.N. and other world organisations.

Al Dustour: One and the same

ISRAELIS MONDAY go to the polls in a general election to choose members of the new Knesset (Israel's parliament) in a feverish competition over parliamentary seats, which offer the means for implementing Zionist programmes. The competition is between "extremists" and "hardliners", but no doves, and all are seeking to expand and enhance a colonisation policy in Arab land. This trend has been clear from the platforms and election campaigns of the various Israeli parties, which were unanimous in agreement over continuing a drive to build colonies and to deny the Palestinians their legitimate rights, and to continue to hold on to Jerusalem as the "united capital" of Israel.

Of course some of these parties have included clauses in their platforms which express the desire for peace, but for a peace that is in conformity with the Zionist philosophy, and in line with Israel's programmes of expansion and imposing hegemony over the whole Middle East region.

The Israelis seem to be ignoring past lessons about dealings with the Palestinians under their rule or Arab countries for that matter. They seem to have completely ruled out any chance of learning from the consequences of their invasion of Lebanon or their fighting against the PLO and Arab states. All that concerns them now is to consecrate plans for expansion and continued aggression.

Sawt Al Shaab: For preserving Palestinian heritage

A COMMITTEE FOR preserving Palestinian heritage opened meetings in Amman to examine means of safeguarding Palestinian culture in the face of continued Zionist attempts to destroy it and distort Palestinian history.

Needless to say, the Arab-Israeli conflict revolves around the historic and cultural roots of people in Palestine, and therefore, it is incumbent on the Arabs and Muslims to preserve this culture and to consolidate the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. Israel has been building colonies deporting Arab people from Palestine and confiscating their lands and at the same time trying to Judaise Arab holy places and erase traces of Arab culture in Palestine. The meetings of the committee in Amman remind all Muslims and Arabs of their duty towards Jerusalem and towards liberating Holy Places in Palestine and safeguarding the culture and history of its people as part of the history and culture of the Arab Nation.

Defending Palestinian culture is preserving the treasures of Islamic culture and manuscripts and its institutions. This is not the responsibility of the committee alone but rather a responsibility of all Muslims and Arabs that are keen on carrying on the struggle for liberating usurped Arab lands.

Piracy, not without American mandate

By Tareq Masarweh

THE BRITISH police have discovered that the two Israelis, arrested in an aborted operation to kidnap a former Nigerian minister and bundle him off to his country, were in the pay of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service. The affair has revealed to the Nigerians that Israel, which has no diplomatic ties with their country, is finding its way in through collaboration between its intelligence and the military junta in Lagos, which needs the Israelis, the masters of crime, to liquidate, kidnap or kill their political opponents. Israeli intelligence had earlier found its way into Sri Lanka, also with no diplomatic ties with Israel,

through co-operation in re-organising the Asian country's intelligence, which is being used to carry out repressive measures against minorities rebelling against ill-treatment by the Sri Lankan regime. We in the Arab World find such collaboration by no means surprising because we are quite familiar with the criminal nature of Israel and the Zionist movement, which guides them in their wicked ways. Nor are we surprised to learn that dictatorial regimes in Central America find no other than Israel to supply them with arms, intelligence expertise and criminals specialised in torture and repression. The Israelis are acting for their American masters in that region.

The Americans sometimes seem reluctant to appear as directly involved in such actions, designed to break the will of the masses and force them to succumb to the dictators who are in the pay of Washington. They have entrusted this dirty work to the Israelis who, they know, master such an 'art'. The Israelis for their part, have maintained strong relations with the regimes of military dictatorship Argentina, Brazil, and Chile over the past years, not because the Israelis were supplying them with expertise on investment and development for the benefit of

their peoples, but rather in accordance with the extent to which the Israelis offered these dictatorial regimes training in manipulating terror and repression, something which the Israelis have mastered and practised against the peoples of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. Israel has never been part of the liberation movements in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the "Third World" in general, for the simple reason that it had always been an essential ingredient of imperialism, which opposes all forms of liberation. This has been clear from the offshoot of the Zionist movement, towards the end of the past century, when Zionist leaders

der Theodore Hertzl wrote messages to the "Germans, French and British urging them to colonise the Middle East region. He offered the services by Jews who, he said, would enable the Europeans to establish what he termed a civilised entity in Palestine to support European imperialism and act as its ally in this region.

In his messages to the German emperor, Hertzl said that a Jewish state in the Middle East would be similar to Rhodesia, a frontline imperialist post in the midst of a backward, under-developed region suffering colonial yoke. Israel and the racist Zionist movement

can only stand for injustice, conspiracies and oppression against smaller nations. The Jewish religion justifies this behaviour and the Zionist movement had been founded for the purpose of carrying out these evil and criminal actions. Israel thrives in such an atmosphere, and the more evil there is, the stronger its role will be.

The awakening of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America will no doubt continue to expose the false pretences of friendship claimed by Israel; and the will of nations will finally put an end to the evil actions of Zionism.

Five years after revolution, Nicaragua has economic hardships

By Bernd Debusmann
 Reuter

MANAGUA — Confrontation with the United States has turned Nicaragua into an armed camp, with a war economy that has brought suffering to most of its three million people.

"Living conditions have never been as tough," said a European ambassador. "Shortages are more severe than ever. The economy is in a shambles. There is no private investment. After all, who wants to put his money in a country at war?"

As the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) celebrates the fifth anniversary of its July 19 left-wing revolution on Thursday, grumbling over economic hardship is no longer confined to the disenchanted Middle Class which provides the backbone of dom-

estic opposition to the FSLN.

"Listen, I am in favour of the revolution but it is now hurting our stomachs," said Sonia del Carmen Rivas, a housewife in the working class district of Villa Fraternidad.

She echoed the feelings of many as even staples of the Nicaraguan diet such as beans are becoming difficult to obtain.

Residents say medical supplies are so short that dentists in Managua do surgery without anaesthetics. Patients due for operations are often asked to bring their own syringes and drips.

The Sandinists blame such troubles on the U.S., which has been exerting intense military and economic pressure on Nicaragua since President Reagan took office in 1981 and declared he was "drawing the line" against Com-

munist in Central America.

The Reagan administration says the Sandinists are exporting left-wing revolution to the rest of Central America, fuelling the war left guerrillas are waging against the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador.

Washington has been arming and financing some 10,000 right-wing insurgents who are fighting the Sandinists on two fronts, along the border with Honduras in the north and from the dense jungles of Costa Rica in the south.

Government economists here say the U.S. has influenced international lending organisations against giving credits to Nicaragua. In a more direct attempt to strangle the country, saboteurs mined Nicaragua's main harbours earlier this year.

The International Court of Jus-

tice in The Hague, ruling on a Nicaraguan complaint that the mining was done by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) men, asked Washington to stop actions against Nicaragua's ports and against international navigation.

The U.S.-Nicaraguan confrontation has been accompanied by the relentless growth of a military machinery run by the men who overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in a civil war which killed an estimated 40,000 people.

"The militarisation of this country is staggering," said the leader of a U.S. church group on his second post-revolution visit. "There are soldiers everywhere you go. More bullets than beans, now."

Under a September 1983 law on military conscription, the Sandinist army was swollen by 6,000

recruits last January to bring the total strength of the armed forces, including reservists, to around 52,000.

A new round of recruitment has just started and government sources believe it will affect another 10,000 to 15,000 young men. According to billboards put up for the anniversary celebrations, the Sandinist militia now numbers 300,000.

It is by far the largest military force in Central America, and the U.S. points to its size to back up its contention that Nicaragua is posing a military threat to its neighbours.

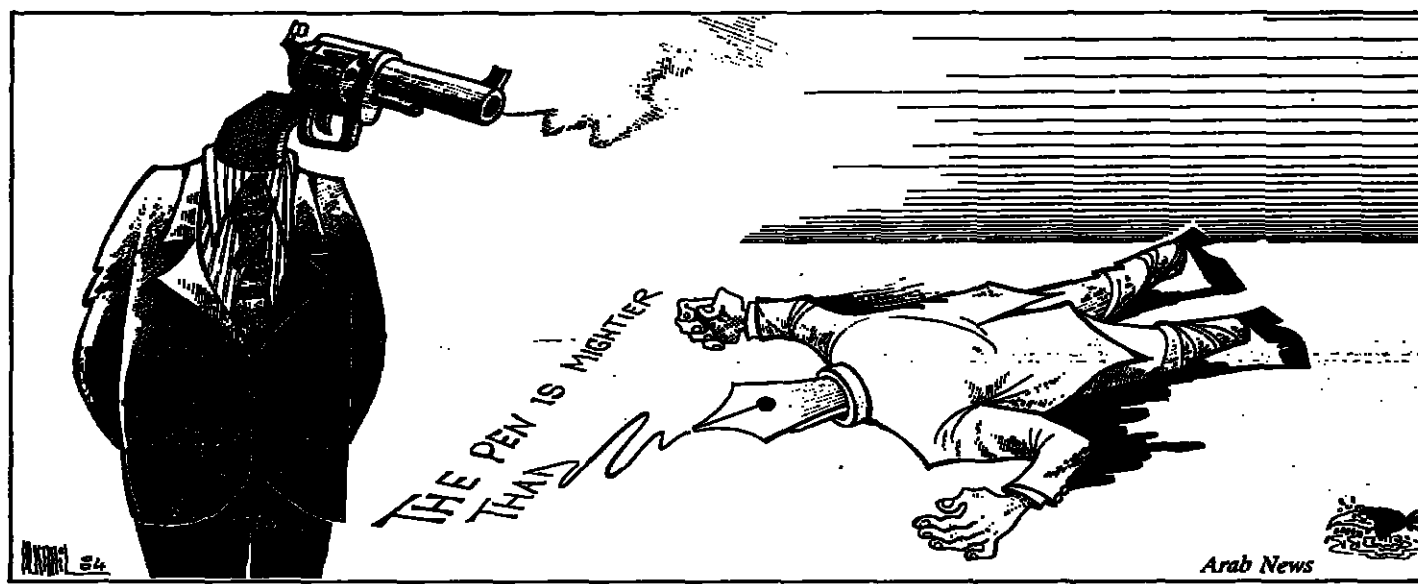
Domestic opponents say military conscription is being used to tighten the Sandinists' hold over Nicaragua and its institutions of power, thereby undermining chances of opposition parties in gen-

eral elections scheduled for Nov. 4.

Since 1979, the Sandinists have built a powerful base of grassroots support, in mass organisations from the Sandinist Youth and the Trade Union Centre to the ubiquitous "Sandinist Defence Committees" set up for protection of the revolution.

With such an extensive party organisation, foreign diplomats say, the Sandinists are virtually assured of victory in the elections — despite economic hardships and the steady loss of lives caused by the war.

Since the insurgents launched their first major offensive in spring last year, they have killed some 1,680 troops and civilians, according to official figures, and caused 2,500 million cordobas (about \$90 million) in direct war damage.



Security bill headache for Soares government

By Peter Müllership
 Reuter

JAKARTA — Eleven Pacific nations have agreed after years of wrangling to take the first real step towards closer economic ties aimed at bridging the gap between rich and poor nations in the region.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), grouping Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia, and their industrialised allies agreed here last week to pool knowledge, map out economic strategies for the region and co-operate in training.

In doing so, ASEAN nations and the United States, Japan, New Zealand, Canada and Australia, dropped the controversial idea of a European-style Pacific economic basin community, first suggested by Japan more than 20 years ago.

ASEAN has long sought closer economic ties with its richer pac-

ific neighbours but rejected the idea of a community as being too broad a concept.

Jakarta's Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumatmadja, unveiling the new scheme said: "I must emphasise here that there was no intention... to set up a new community."

"Some people would not be part of an institution where China is present," he said. "Others would be reluctant to have the Soviet Union as a fellow community member."

Mr. Mochtar pledged that the interests of smaller island countries such as Samoa and Fiji would not be neglected under the co-operation plans.

But despite enthusiasm for the concept at the Jakarta conference, there were signs that some smaller nations in the area were worried they might be dominated.

"I should not like the basin to develop a hole at the centre where the interests of small, developing island countries are sucked away or allowed to go unceremoniously

down the drain," said Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Rabbie Namaliu, who attended the conference as an observer.

The Pacific co-operation scheme is aimed at solving economic problems such as "Third World" debts, renegotiations of commodity agreements and protectionism. Mr. Mochtar said it would not have military or political ramifications.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe pledged their support for the idea, saying it would bring prosperity to all Pacific countries.

But the Pacific nations still face big problems reconciling the interests of the developed and the developing world, a fact highlighted in U.S.-ASEAN exchanges about the U.S. economy.

Mr. Shultz said the tremendous strength of the U.S. economy had enormous benefits for the "Third World" and that developing nations were far more protectionist than developed nations.

He said American businesses suffered from counterfeiting of goods such as records and computers in the Pacific region.

For their part, ASEAN nations told Mr. Shultz that high U.S. interest rates and the increasing value of the dollar hurt their debt-burdened economies, while their exports were hit by U.S. tariffs.

Singapore's Foreign Minister Suppiah Dhanabalan said: "ASEAN needs common strategies to counter protectionist policies and tendencies in industrialised countries."

Malaysian Foreign Minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie said: "Let the ASEAN countries and our neighbours in the Western Pacific seize the opportunity to begin to inter-relate and collaborate more closely."

ASEAN nations said they had felt let down by the June summit of industrialised nations in London and now based their hopes on the new co-operation strategy.

ASEAN rejects EEC-style accord

By David Reid
 Reuter

LISBON — A tough new internal security bill aimed at curbing terrorism and organised crime is proving the biggest headache of Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares' year-old coalition govern-

ment. In a debate which has dragged on at intervals over the past month the point was reached where Socialist poet and intellectual Manuel Alegre appealed to the government simply to drop the measure, denounced by the far left as fascist.

Mr. Alegre, one of several prominent Socialists who oppose the bill, said its withdrawal would be "a triumph for democracy, for the government and for the majority which supports it."

Debate on the measure was due to resume in parliament Wednesday although no vote was expected this week. Mr. Soares enjoys

a more than two-thirds majority in the 250-seat parliament thanks to a coalition with the Social Democrats.

But the cries of alarm which have greeted the security bill have prompted the government to tread warily, especially as some of the loudest protests have come from their own ranks.

Provisions in the bill as submitted to parliament include searches without warrant, telephone and computer tapping, preventive detention and restrictions on public assembly. They have revived bitter memories of oppression by the dreaded secret police in the old right-wing dictatorship overthrown in the 1974 armed forces coup.

The government has strongly denied accusations that it timed a huge sweep against suspected urban guerrillas last month to exert pressure in favour of the bill.

Public debate has been sharpened because one of some 40

people detained in the swoop was Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, a hero of the 1974 revolution and legendary folk figure. He is now under interrogation for alleged links with a shadowy urban guerrilla group calling itself the Popular Forces of April 25 after the date of the 1974 revolution.

Portugal's powerful opposition Communists, the nation's third largest party, have accused Mr. Soares of trying to eliminate the radical left, discredit Mr. Otelo and implicate the Communists. They say the government wants the new law not to cripple terrorism but their political opponents.

The Christian Democrats, also in opposition, praised last month's swoop and had been expected to back a toned-down version of the government bill. But their leader Lucas Pires said this week the government should be concerned with freedom, not oppression, and the Christian Democrats tabled

their own version of a security bill. Communists were not alone, however, in charging that it was just a variation and "pale shadow" of the contested version.

In the face of the storm, and protesting that they wanted the biggest possible consensus on a bill designed to protect the state, government ministers have predicted changes to meet objections — not only in parliament but from the Portuguese Bar Association — that some of the measures are excessive.

Justice Minister Rui Machete, a Social Democrat, denied paternity of the bill, saying in an interview: "It is a government responsibility."

He reflected with some bitterness that the government was attacked if it did nothing and censured when it acted firmly.

The major problem now is to produce a measure which still has teeth but is acceptable to the Portuguese man in the street.

Philippine opposition buoyed to challenge Marcos in assembly

By Graham Lovell
 Reuter

MANILA — The Philippine National Assembly meets this week for the first time since general elections in May with a strengthened opposition buoyed to challenge President Ferdinand Marcos and his ruling New Society Movement (KBL).

The opposition, loosely allied under the umbrella of the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), holds 59 of the 183 elected seats in the 200-member assembly against 108 for the KBL.

The election, the first since martial law was lifted in 1981, was held under the shadow of a serious economic crisis and the murder last August of former Senator Benigno Aquino, who might have led the opposition in the May 14 poll.

The still-unsolved murder at Manila Airport was a major factor in UNIDO's surprise showing, especially in metropolitan Manila, where it won 16 of the 21 seats.

But its new-found strength is tenuous and its alliances fragile. Some members barely speak to each other and a few influential newcomers still look to the "parliament of the streets" — demonstrators and protest groups — to give popular weight to their causes.

Moreover, the KBL will be reinforced by 17 members named by the president, which puts it well above the number needed to block opposition bids to challenge constitutional amendments, impeach Mr. Marcos or push through legislation to curb his still-considerable powers.

Independents and members of the once-powerful Nacionalista Party hold 12 seats. But four seats are still undecided, 10 weeks after the voting, and more than a dozen results are being challenged in the official election commission or the courts.

An early target for the assembly will be the economy during the debate on the 1985 budget. For this battle the opposition has ample ammunition, with the country deep in debt and trying to restructure its obligations and raise new loans.

Another issue is the constitutional amendments that give Mr. Marcos broad power to rule virtually by fiat. Many concerned moderates see the amendments as an extension of the iron authority he wielded while governing the country for nine years under martial law.

They hope to garner support from KBL members who share their uneasiness, although they have no illusions of actually forcing much change by legislative action.

But opposition members are determined that with an increased strength in an enlarged assembly

they will have a greater voice not only on the assembly floor but also in the committees that scrutinise legislation and government.

"They also do not want the assembly to become a repeat of the former 'rubber-stamp parliament', which had fewer than a dozen opposition members, of whom all but three or four were largely silent."

They want restoration of certain parliamentary privileges which were brushed aside in the former assembly, effectively gagging Mr. Marcos's opponents from addressing the assembly on chosen topics.

Aquilino Pimentel, a southern Philippines mayor released from house arrest to contest the election, said: "Certainly, the 'privilege (speaking) hour' was subject to some abuse in the past but if it is not restored then this assembly will be no different to the old rubber stamp assembly that it replaced."

Opposition members have threatened to boycott the assembly opening by Mr. Marcos unless the "privilege hour" was restored, a move KBL Spokesman Jose Tumbokon described as "tyranny of the minority by political blackmail."

Mr. Pimentel, 49, who was closely allied to Mr. Aquino and is seen by some as a possible presidential candidate, sets no great store on opposition numbers in the assembly.

"If you talk in numbers, we simply cannot beat them (the KBL)," he told a reporter. "That is why there must be a tie-up between the opposition in the institutional parliament and the 'parliament of the streets'. Events in the past couple of years show that even Mr. Marcos listens sometimes."

Parties linked to UNIDO or nominally allied to it, as he is, "cannot unite under one political banner," Mr. Pimentel said.

"Our basic stands are so wide there is no way we can belong to one political party... there is hope in the new assembly but only if the people outside also do their share."

Mr. Pimentel and other opposition stalwarts know, loyalties can switch or be bought by favours, that a candidate elected on a UNIDO ticket can easily cross the floor before a crucial vote.

But the KBL is equally vulnerable to wandering loyalists.

Five KBL members of the old assembly were not adopted as official candidates but stood for re-election as independents and won. The presidential palace is aware of the political minefield that lies ahead, said one palace source: "Everyone is looking to the municipal elections in 1986, Marcos is not popular and a KBL label might not be the best thing to wear right now."

Handwritten signature: *كثير من الوطن*

British Upper House enjoys rare burst of vitality

By Harvey Morris
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's House of Lords, once described by a wit as proof of the existence of life after death, is enjoying a rare burst of vitality.

Fired with new-found enthusiasm for its role as defender of Britain's unwritten constitution, the 932-member Upper House is displaying an "uncharacteristic tendency" to challenge the decision-making House of Commons.

In the current one-year-old parliament it has forced some 50 major amendments in legislation proposed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative administration, despite her overwhelming majority in the Lower House.

Mrs. Thatcher was obliged to make an embarrassing U-turn late

last month after the lords effectively outlawed her plans to scrap elections to seven socialist-backed local councils that rule Britain's largest cities.

The unelected peers, both hereditary and appointed, decided overwhelmingly that the move to ban elections, in preparation for abolishing the big-spending councils, was "essentially undemocratic."

No institution, on the face of it, could be less democratic than the House of Lords itself. While many peers are former members of the House of Commons or leading figures in public life, an equal number of regular attenders are aristocrats with titles stretching back to the 13th century.

The Left, which in an ironic twist of contemporary politics now finds the House of Lords on its side, has long dreamt of abolishing, or at least radically re-

forming, the Upper House.

The peers have nevertheless overcome a steady erosion of their rights in the past 70 years to survive as the only major legislature in the world that retains the hereditary principle.

The lords' powers are, however, strictly limited. Their lordships can amend government legislation or delay it, but only for the space of one year.

They have no say in government finances and are bound by convention not to block any legislation that has been promised by the ruling party in its election manifesto.

The modern House of Lords comes into its own, according to House leader Lord Cledwyn, a member of opposition, in situations such as the present parliament where the ruling party has an unbeatable majority in the House of Commons.

Lord Cledwyn, a former Commons member and Labour Party chairman, told Reuters in an interview that the Upper House provides a check on the more radical legislation of the Lower House.

As a socialist, he opposes the hereditary principle — "you cannot defend a system in which the right to legislate can be inherited" — but nevertheless sees advantages in the existence of an unelected Upper House.

So-called "life peerages", first introduced in 1958, are conferred, nominally by the monarch, on prominent figures in public life such as former politicians, trade union leaders, bankers and academics.

With no electorate to worry about, the life peers can afford to take their own line on issues of the day. While a majority are aligned to one or other of the main political parties, an increasing number sit on the "cross-benches" as independents.

Hereditary peers, with their origins in the landed aristocracy, naturally tend towards conservatism but are less tied to the party system than their opposite numbers in the Commons.

A disadvantage of the present House, Lord Cledwyn acknowledged, was that most of its "life" members tended to be beyond retirement age — the average being in the mid-sixties.

The only young blood is provided by recently enfranchised aristocrats, some of whom take a close interest in their parliamentary duties while others rarely attend the gilded and leather-benched chamber next door to the House of Commons.

Some hereditary peers, such as Lord Carrington, former foreign secretary and now secretary-

general of NATO, and Lord Gowrie, the government's present arts minister, have attained prominent roles in national government.

But this is a far cry from pre-19th century days when the lords dominated British political life.

Despite a general recognition of the need to reform the Upper House, there are those who still defend what they hold to be the "untouchable" hereditary principle.

Lady Sultoun, 20th in line of a Scottish peerage created in 1445, recently told the House: "Hereditary has been out of fashion for a long time — like virginity and the novels of Sir Walter Scott. That does not mean there is nothing in heredity."

She argued that cattle-breeders and race horse owners had long known that talent, ability, likes and dislikes tended to pass from generation to generation.

Randa Habib's
Corner

Excellent initiative

A GOOD initiative from the Traffic Department. Upon your arrival at the airport and after the usual procedures and at the last passport checking point a circular is given to you concerning traffic regulations.

Very politely and after the welcoming phrases to the "dear visitors" from abroad, the circular states that every year "we receive in Jordan our sons working abroad and visitors from Arab countries. And every summer, we lose a number of friends and relatives under the wheels". "That is why", the circular adds, if you want to spend a pleasant summer and happy holidays, read attentively the following remarks and implement them for your safety and your relatives' well-being.

— Speed is the quickest way to death and costs you the highest price, your life.
— Co-operate with policemen and implement their instructions.
— Avoid giving your car-keys to anyone because you will be held responsible for anything that might happen.
— Do not park in forbidden zones and sidewalks.
— It is dangerous to overtake vehicles from the wrong side.
— Seat-belts are there for your safety so use them.

Finally, and specially concerning the Aqaba-Amman Desert Road, which is congested with trucks and needs special attention, the circular concluded with alarming figures:

In 1983 there was an average of 1197 accidents a month, 37 killed and 681 wounded.

The Traffic Department appeals to visitors to conform with the traffic regulations and help protecting their own lives and the lives of others while extending to them once again a warm welcome.

This is a real excellent initiative which I hope will pay off and make certain people understand that driving in a city is different from driving in the desert, that road islands are not made to be climbed over, that priority on roundabouts is not just in words, and violating red lights at incredible speeds is deadly.

Vatican astronomers get a better view of heavens from U.S.

By Clare Fallon
Reuter

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — The bright lights of Rome have blotted out the stars for Vatican astronomers who are crossing the Atlantic to get a better view of the heavens.

After 400 years of observing the skies from the Italian capital and this nearby hill town, the Jesuits who run the Vatican observatory are transferring much of their work to Arizona in the south-west United States.

The reason is the increasing amount of light — dubbed "light pollution" by astronomers — from Rome and surrounding towns and villages.

"Essentially, astronomers have to look for places where there are no people," explained Observatory Director Father George Coyne. "By profession we are hermits."

The Castel Gandolfo Observatory, in the same grounds as the Pope's summer residence, will remain the headquarters of the Vatican's astronomical work.

But for up to eight months a year, three or four of Castel Gandolfo's seven Jesuit staff, hailing from the U.S., Britain and Spain, will watch the stars from the Tucson Observatory in Arizona.

Light pollution around Castel Gandolfo, 24 kilometres south of Rome in the Alban Hills, has increased steadily and now means faint stars and planets are difficult to spot even with the most powerful telescope, said Fr. Coyne, an American.

The greatest villains, according to astronomers, are powerful modern street lamps. Dust particles in the atmosphere reflect and diffuse the glare, forming a screen of light which shuts out the distant stars.

"It is a problem not just for ourselves: It affects all observatories," Fr. Coyne told Reuters.

But he hopes Tucson, one of

the biggest astronomical research centres in the world, will guarantee the Jesuits a good view. "In the south-west United States, certain places have ordinances that control and shield the lights. If a light is correctly shielded, it helps us."

Astronomical research has been part of the Vatican's work since the 16th Century when Pope Gregory XIII used it to reform the calendar originally laid out by Julius Caesar. But it was not until 1892 that Pope Leo XIII formally founded the observatory, then within the walls of Vatican City.

In 1955, again plagued by encroaching lights, the astronomers retreated to Castel Gandolfo.

In recent years, the Jesuits, members of a Roman Catholic order founded in 1540 and famed for its dedication to learning, have travelled to Chile, South Africa and the U.S. to observe and to swap notes with fellow-astronomers. Fr. Coyne said.

"Astronomers tend to share telescopes and we cannot afford to duplicate the work we do."

Two years ago, the team, who all took up astronomy alongside their religious studies, started a series of trial visits to Tucson and last summer won approval from the Vatican for a long-term research programme there, he said.

Under the programme, the first members of the team go to Tucson at the end of this summer, as guests of the University of Arizona which has observation and research facilities there.

Their findings will be analysed on two computers at Castel Gandolfo where some observing will still be done and where the Jesuits are making a particular study of cosmology this year.

"Every now and then we must stop and weigh up if what we are doing serves the church today. Astronomy is fascinating: it has a global importance and attracts a lot of real interest," Fr. Coyne said.

Turkish national dailies hit by financial crisis

By Emel Anil
Associated Press

ANKARA — Turkey's major national dailies, some of the most technologically advanced newspapers in Europe, are reeling from another blow after military censorship — falling circulation and rising costs.

Since the government launched an economic recovery programme and eliminated most state subsidies, including those to newspapers, starting in 1980, the newspapers have been feeling the financial squeeze.

A daily newspaper now costs more than a loaf of bread.

The price of state-produced newspaper shot up to the current 167,500 Turkish liras (\$446) per ton from 40,000 liras (\$106) four years ago.

In the past year, communications expenses including telephone fees rose by 200 per cent.

Pierce competition prodded newspapers more than a decade ago to buy advanced American offset equipment and to print everything from comic strips to Gory Crime photos in blazing colour. A rising dollar has now made imported materials for colour printing more costly.

"PTT (Telephone) costs are so high that we often think twice, when covering stories, before placing a long distance call," complains a news service editor who declined the use of his name.

Papers have raised their own prices — to 50 liras (13 cents). A loaf of bread costs 40 liras (10 cents).

This, in turn, has led to a drop in circulation despite steady population and literacy growth in the country. The combined circulation of five major dailies is down to 1.7 million from 2.1 million in 1977, according to a recent survey published by the weekly Yanki-Echo.

Strongly capitalised Hurriyet, Turkey's largest daily, and the Gunaydin chain of magazine-type dailies have been least affected by the financial crisis, sources in Istanbul, Turkey's Fleet Street in Istanbul, report.

But they say other dailies borrowed heavily at high interest rates to cover steep costs and now have trouble servicing those loans.

Other Turkish businesses are in dire straits too, ruling out ad-

vertising revenue as a major source to cover rising costs.

In a recent article Vitezih Demirkent, president of Istanbul's Journalists Association and a former executive of Hurriyet, urged the government to extend support to newspapers, both financially and by offering greater tolerance for press freedom.

After the military takeover in September 1980, martial law authorities barred any direct criticism of the government and periodically closed down several newspapers for violating the ban.

Restrictions on press freedom have been partially eased in practice since Turkey returned to civilian rule following general elections last November.

Although martial law remains in force in 41 of 67 provinces, including the major cities of Ankara and Istanbul, no major daily has been closed since the elections for stepping out of line. There have also been fewer news blackouts and prison sentences passed on journalists are often reduced to fines.

But publishers and editors complain that the civilian government of premier Turgut Ozal is not doing enough to ease press problems.

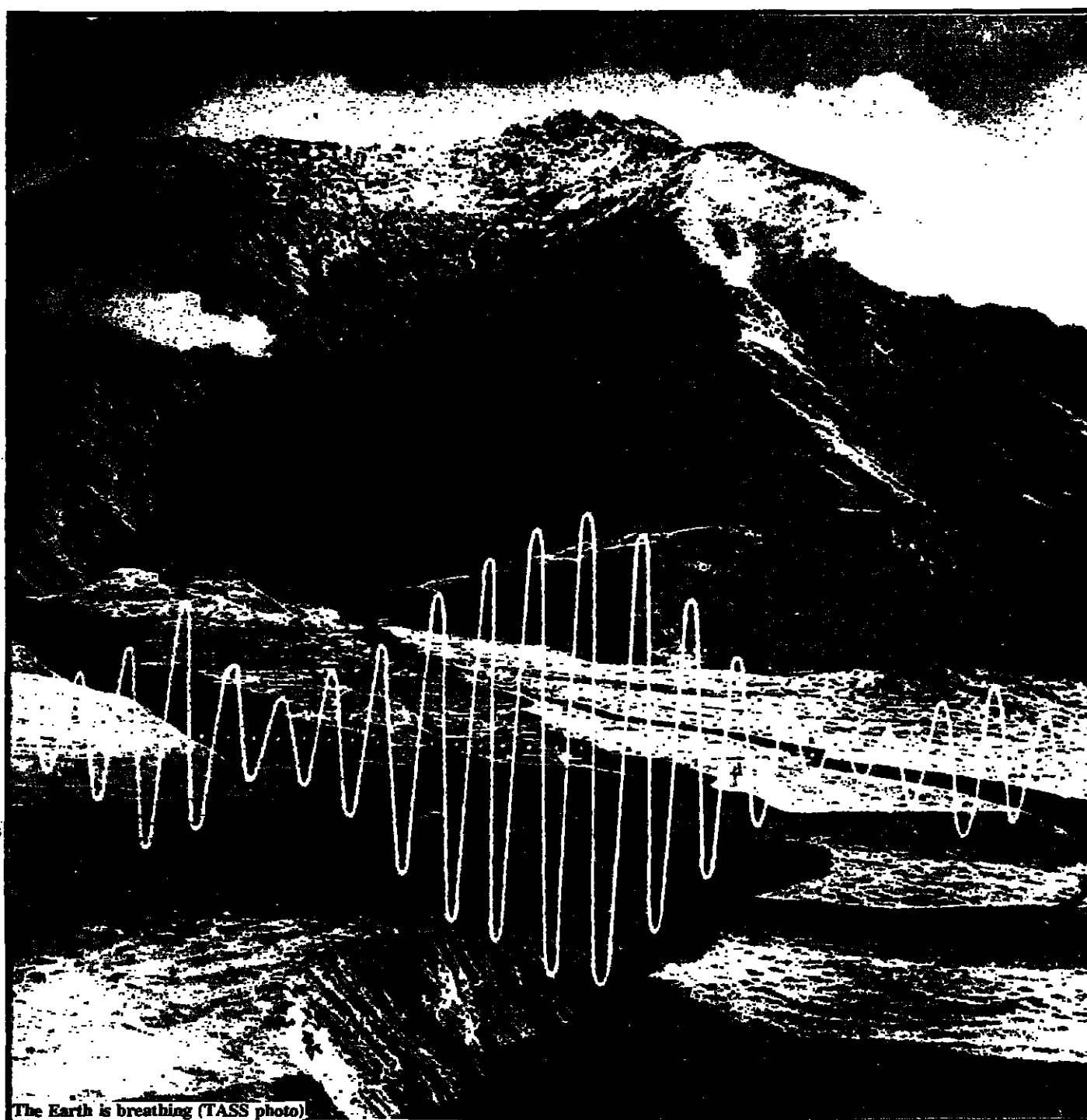
The government is quick to blame the press for negative developments, they contend. Mr. Ozal has said that the newspapers helped fuel the fires of inflation, raging at 45 per cent, by sensational reporting on price increases.

The government blames the papers for inaccurate reporting and editors respond that officials do not inform the press sufficiently.

Mr. Demirkent said in his article that newspapers cannot be viewed like other commercial enterprises because of their significant role in a democratic society.

But Mesut Yilmaz, state minister and government spokesman, urged the newspapers to adopt commercial principles. He admitted that newspapers have a principal role in forming public opinion and added that those with poor financial resources cannot fulfill this role.

"The ideal, of course, is to have newspapers which function self-sufficiently, without being dependent on the government or any sector of the society," he said.



The Earth is breathing (TASS photo)

Even slightest earth tremors are recorded in Soviet academy

A COMPREHENSIVE Standing Seismological Party of the terrestrial Physics Institute/operation of the USSR Academy of Sciences/works in the Garm district of the Tajik Soviet Republic in Central Asia. The party's centre in Garm has 25 extensions — stations working round the clock registering the slightest tremors of the earth. The centre and the stations are equipped with precise instruments allowing measurements

in the highlands. Automated stations feed data they gather to the centre over the radio. Specialists of the centre process data into estimates and tremor forecasts.

As reliable forecasting must be based on comprehensive data, the party, besides conventional measurements, sounds the earth's depth with heavy blasts of high-frequency voltage, operates lasers measuring the slowest motion of

the earth's surface, registers alterations in the globe's magnetic field and in the subterranean water conditions and studies animal behaviour.

Specialists are on the way to development of automated tremor forecast systems based on computers.

The party's work has resulted so far in 20 learned reports and collections of papers, over 500 separate papers and 40 doctorates.

The Garm Party is also a training centre: the staff of seismological stations in Moscow, Kamchatka, Transcaucasia and Central Asia was either trained or upgraded there.

The Garm centre often receives seismologists from the socialist countries and from the USA, Japan, Great Britain, India, Italy, Finland and elsewhere. — Fotokhronika TASS.

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Jordan team leaves for Olympics today

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thirteen Jordanian athletes, accompanied by a team of 12 officials and trainers, leave for Los Angeles today, Monday, to take part in the 1984 Olympic Games.

The Los Angeles Games, scheduled to open with a grand opening ceremony on July 28, is the second Olympics Jordan is taking part in, the first being the 1980 Moscow Games when the Kingdom took part in shooting events.

The Jordanian team to Los Angeles, headed by Mohammad Jamil Musa Abu Al Tayyeb, director of the Jordan Youth Organisation, will take part in track and field events such as the 800-metres, the mile, 300-metres and 5,000-metres races, the 20-kilometre walk and the marathon. Seven athletes, most of them sharpshooters from the Jordan Armed Forces and the Royal Jordanian Shooting Club will match their skill with international marksmen, while a Jordanian student studying in the U.S. will don his mask and unsheathe his sword for the fencing competition.

The 1984 Olympics is also of major significance to Jordan, in that the Kingdom is sending its first-ever woman Olympic athlete, 21-year Raida Bader, a student, to compete in the 3,000-metre race.

The Jordanian four-colour national flag will be carried at the Los Angeles opening ceremony by Murad Barakat, hailed as the best basketball player in the Arab World, who has been named an official of the Jordanian team to the 1984 Olympic Games.

The Los Angeles Games will be an opportunity for Jordanian athletes to take part in a

"real competition and gain valued experience," says Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb. "In terms of Arab and Asian records, the Jordanian talent is remarkable, but we do not have enough experience in major international events," Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb told the Jordan Times.

"They (the Jordanian athletes) will have first-hand experience in international competitions and they can also learn how world champions are made," Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb said. "Furthermore it will also be an ideal opportunity for them to adopt new styles and upgrade their performances."

Jordan sent a team of 37, mostly officials, to the Moscow Olympics and "they were seeking to get familiar with the Olympics and its various aspects," Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb said. Jordanian competitors actively took part in the shooting events, and "although we did not win any honours, it was a wonderful experience," he added.

The official expressed optimism over the Jordanian team's performance in Los Angeles. "I know it is not easy, but it is my hope that we will be able to leave some lasting impression of Jordan in the Olympics," he said.

The Jordanian team to Los Angeles includes:

— Mitab Faouri (800 metres and mile-race)

— Amjad Tawalha (20-kilometre walk)

— Basal Kilani (5,000 metres)
— Ismail Khassab (marathon)
— Raida Bader (3,000 metres)
— Aiman Jumeihan (fencing)
— Khairi Amer, Arfan Idelbah, Aysar Al Hiyari, Husam Mohammad Fleih, Ali Hamed, Mohammad Ma'ashi Jbour and Mohammad Salem Ali (shooting)

Trainers

— Yassin Al Kilani (track and field)
— Dint Martwil (track and field)
— Dr. Atef Okleh (fencing)
— Kheif Ayyad (shooting)

Officials and others

— Ms. Inam Anba (track and field)
— Dr. Samir Sarah (physician)
— Mohammad Smadi (fencing)
— Nader Shalhoub (shooting)
— Mohammad Jamil Abdul Kader (journalist)
— Murad Barakat

The team is scheduled to attend an official farewell ceremony at the Sports City Monday morning before boarding an Alia direct flight to Los Angeles. By design or coincidence, the Alia Tri-Star that will carry the team will be piloted by Captain Jawad Abdul Munhem, a famed Jordanian sportsman and president of the Jordan Squash Federation.

Hassan supports national Tae Kwan Do team

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, president of the national federations of Karate and Tae Kwan Do martial arts has voiced his absolute support for the national team which is taking part in Asian Championship Games to be held in the Philippines. The Asian tournament is due to be held from November 9 to 12.

If the national team presents a good performance its members will be able to participate in the second international championship games to be held in England in July 1985. Teams from Britain, South Korea, Asia and North and South America and Africa will take part in the 1985 games.

Those participating in the Asian Games should be members of the international federation for Tae Kwan Do and Karate or representatives of their nations.

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— Shmeisani, near the Commodore Hotel, tel: 67028 - 670287 Amman

Fignon claims his 2nd Tour de France

PARIS (R) — Laurent Fignon of France rode in glory up the Champs Elysees Sunday to claim his second victory in the Tour de France cycle race before a delirious throng of his home-town supporters.

After three weeks and almost 4,000 km he finished with the pack in Sunday's 191-km ride into the heart of Paris, but captured professional cycling's most prestigious title by a gaping margin of more than 10 minutes.

In second place overall was four times winner Bernard Hinault of France, who returned from injury to see his long reign ended by the bespectacled Parisian who had won in his absence last year.

Behind these two Frenchmen came an unprecedented line-up of English-speakers.

World road race champion Greg Lemond of the United States was third, Scotland's Robert Millar fourth and Ireland's Sean Kelly fifth. Kelly was edged out of first place in the points competition by Frank Hoste of Belgium.

The sprint victory in the final stage, after six breakneck laps of a

Champs Elysees course, went to another Belgian, Erik Vanderaerden.

He pipped Frenchman Pascal Jules to the line but the finish made no difference to the top placings as the leading riders were all in the pack right behind them.

Hundreds of thousands turned out to roar Fignon home, and they took home with them the memory of a smiling blond who, at 23, seems destined to match the greatest feats in cycling history.

Fignon defied his family's wishes by giving up a career in veterinary medicine. But his decision was fully justified when he won last year's tour at the first attempt, the youngest victor in 18 years.

This year he bided his time on the long runs down western France and across the south of the country, before striking decisively on the switchback roads of the Alps to put an unbridgeable time-gap between himself and Hinault.

He finished with five stage wins to his name, three in time trials and two in the Alps.

Lauda wins British Grand Prix

BRANDS HATCH, England (R)

Austrian Niki Lauda became the highest points scorer in Formula One World Championship history when he won the British Grand Prix at Brands Hatch Sunday with a superb display of driving.

The Austrian, winner of the South African and French Grands Prix already this season, won comfortably from Britain's Derek Warwick in a Renault and Brazilian Ayrton Senna in a Toleman.

World Champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil looked certain to finish second but his Brabham suffered turbo trouble five laps from home and he could only limp

home at half pace — out of the point scorers.

Lauda's McLaren team-mate, Frenchman Alain Prost, appeared to have the race in his grasp before halfway when he held a 10-second lead over the Austrian, but he was forced out of the race with gearbox problems on the 26th lap.

The race, which had to be restarted after 11 laps when Britain's Jonathan Palmer hit a barrier and his car caught fire, was restarted over 60 laps and gave Lauda the 22nd Grand Prix victory of his career.

It also took him past Jackie Stewart's career points total and within one and half points of Prost at the top of the drivers' table.

Moorcroft hits top form in dream mile

OSLO (R) — British world 5,000-metre champion David Moorcroft hit top form in the 'dream mile' here Saturday just in time for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles later this month.

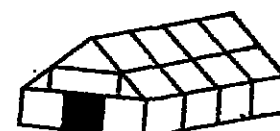
Two of the strongest mile runners, Britain's Steve Cram and the United States' Sydney Maree, dropped out through injury before the race, but Moorcroft won a tough contest in a time he had hoped for, three minutes 50.95 seconds.

Maree, who has recorded the second fastest 1,500 metres in history, flew from the United States to Norway for the race, only to find a knee injury prevented him from competing.

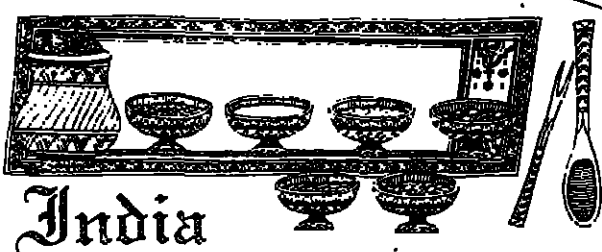
Moorcroft, plagued by injury for the last twelve months, said he was delighted that after only three races this year, he had been able to face up to a tough challenge. "I'm looking forward to getting out to Los Angeles now," he added.

None of the athletes here set out to break records, with the Olympics so close, but several runners confirmed they will be medal favourites at the Olympics.

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(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Japan faces massive debt repayment problem

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita — a small, well-dressed man with an office just round the corner from the emperor's palace — has a big headache.

His ministry is expected to owe about 110,000 billion yen (\$460 billion) by the end of this year and he must find ways to raise the money needed to cover government spending.

Ten years ago the Japanese government's debts were tiny, but the oil crisis changed all that. Japan's oil bill soared, industry's costs leapt and recession spread throughout Japan.

So the government decided to spend itself out of trouble and in the mid-1970s the finance ministry asked the country's banks, securities companies and insurance companies to buy government bonds, promising to repay in 10 years time.

The money was channelled into

industry, construction projects and public spending, fuelling extra economic activity which pulled the Asian industrial giant back onto the growth path it had trod through the 1960s.

But now the time has come to repay and the government has nothing like enough funds to meet its commitments.

Successive Japanese politicians have paid lip service to the need to cut spending or raise taxes and end the government's dependence on bond issues. But none has had the courage to slash spending on health, social insurance and other benefits.

Now the government of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has admitted defeat in its battle against the debt mountain by passing legislation to give itself the legal authority to raise more money to repay its debts.

The budget for the financial year starting next April envisages

8,960 billion yen (\$37.3 billion) in bond issues. The difficulty will come in finding people to buy them.

Banks and other financial institutions bought the earlier bonds at unrealistically low interest rates by tradition because the finance ministry was compelled by law to set the interest rates paid to Japan's small savers at a low level.

The Japanese are thrifty people, saving some 18 per cent of their income compared with the average American's six per cent, and most Japanese have to save hard for their old age. This huge pool of funds has meant Japan has not had to borrow much abroad.

But the days of low interest rates in Japan are coming to an end. Japan is now snipping away at a web of banking restrictions which has maintained low interest rates, and Japanese rates are climbing in the slipstream of high rates in the United States.

Financial companies have devised various new savings schemes offering higher rates than those for ordinary deposits, which sometimes yield as little as two per cent.

Money is flooding out of Japan in search of better yields overseas, especially in the United States. Japanese invested nearly \$3.75 billion abroad in May alone.

All these developments are eroding the pool of cheap funds which financed government borrowing in the past, so Mr. Takeshita is having to face the problem of paying more to borrow money just as the government's old debts are coming up for repayment.

In June and July, he offered financial institutions in Tokyo's Marunouchi banking district at 7.2 per cent interest rate on national bonds. But with U.S. government bond interest rates now hovering above 13 per cent, the

institutions said no and the ministry cancelled plans to borrow money.

Bankers say the finance ministry cannot hold out forever, though. "There will have to be a bond issue in August," says Mr. Michio Jomori, general manager of Mitsubishi Bank's treasury division.

If the government offers higher interest rates, the banks and other financial groups in Marunouchi will have to offer higher rates to compete in the race to attract funds.

In turn the banks will charge their borrowers more and higher interest rates will be a disincentive to Japanese companies hoping to invest in new plant and equipment.

Economists say a drop in industrial investment now will put a brake on economic recovery unless the government starts a massive public spending programme.

But that is where its debt problems began, 10 years ago.

U.S. car industry faces crucial labour negotiations

DETROIT (R) — Record company profits and union fears that thousands of American jobs will be shipped overseas are the major factors in a crucial round of labour negotiations in the United States car industry which begins here Monday.

When leaders of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union sit down with representatives of General Motors (G.M.) and Ford Motor Company for talks scheduled to last eight weeks, there will be more on their minds than traditional labour demands for more money.

American carmakers have outwardly recovered from the calamities they suffered between 1979 and 1982, when sales fell and gains by Japanese carmakers in America prompted Washington to push for limits on imports.

The car companies are reporting unprecedented profits which industry analysts say should pass \$10 billion by the end of 1984.

More than 100,000 workers whose jobs were cut during the recession are back at work enjoying hourly wages much higher than the average for U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Union leaders say their members have not had a real wage increase since 1982, when they agreed to concessions estimated to

management officials to more than a million dollars each.

Mr. Bieber said that G.M. and Ford were prepared to increase imports of cars and parts from Japan, South Korea, Mexico and Europe which would cause the loss of thousands of American jobs.

"All of us must show leadership and carry the message that money without job security will be a hollow victory," he said.

Many analysts say a strike against one of the companies is likely when current contracts expire on Sept. 14 if the UAW membership disagrees with its leaders over the question of pay rises.

The union strike fund stands at an all-time high of \$560 million, which would pay for a three-month strike against G.M. if the dominant North American manufacturer is chosen as the target for a walkout, as most expect.

A relatively amicable accord between unions and employers could be expected to bolster confidence that the U.S. industry's recovery will be more sustainable as the firms strive to compete with foreign rivals.

A prolonged strike would dampen industrial production and slow the economy only weeks before the U.S. presidential election in November.

How Britain gambled and lost \$100m on De Lorean?

LONDON (R) — The partnership began auspiciously, bringing together a U.S. tycoon who would build the great American dream car and a British government that saw a chance of restoring hope to an economic disaster area.

Now the tycoon, Mr. John De Lorean, sits in a Los Angeles court accused of trying to peddle drugs, while British officials are being accused of the most reckless, incompetent blunder in recent history.

What happened in the intervening six years, when £77 million (\$100 million) in taxpayers' money was either lost or vanished, is told in full for the first time in a report from the House of Commons' powerful public accounts committee.

In language of unusual severity, the report describes the venture as "one of the gravest cases of the misuse of public resources to come before us for many years".

Hardly any British official involved, it says, could escape "substantial blame" for the De Lorean debacle.

He approached the British in 1978, a legendary figure who had

been heir apparent of motor city — Detroit — until five years earlier when he quit as \$600,000-a-year vice president of General Motors, the world's biggest carmaker.

Mr. De Lorean told the British he wanted to develop a \$25,000 "dream car" for the U.S. market, a sleek, gull-winged creature of stainless steel which could cruise at 200 kilometres an hour.

Puerto Rico, the Irish Republic and Detroit itself, though Britain did not know it, had already turned him down.

But Britain was willing to be dazzled by Mr. De Lorean, and for one good reason, according to the House of Commons report.

Mr. De Lorean was willing to build his factory in West Belfast, Northern Ireland, the worst unemployment blackspot in Western Europe and through the misery of its Catholic residents a fertile recruiting ground for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is fighting British rule.

Mr. Roy Mason, the then Labour government's cabinet minister for Northern Ireland who approved the deal with Mr. De Lorean

in July 1978, says: "I have no regrets."

"There was 50 per cent youth unemployment and 35 per cent male unemployment — men with no hope and no future, fodder for the IRA."

But the report says Mr. Mason and his deputy, Mr. Don Cannon, committed Britain to Mr. De Lorean's cause despite advice from a top business consultancy that the project was "an extraordinarily risky venture" with "remote" chance of success.

In return for grants, loans and a site, Mr. De Lorean personally invested just £500,000 (then \$1.1 million).

After the company crashed in February 1982, the men of Northern Ireland's now-defunct commerce department and of its development agency who handed out the money were asked why they never checked on his business standing.

Their answer, said the report, was "a most astonishing reply". They never checked on Mr. De Lorean's creditworthiness as he was not going to be relied upon to

provide money — what he was bringing to the venture was reputation and experience.

The report is equally critical of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in the three years that it was in charge of the project after winning the 1979 election.

British civil servants and ministers are portrayed throughout as business naïfs.

"No little old lady with dud shares in a South American silver mine ever looked sillier," commented the conservative Daily Telegraph last week.

Mr. De Lorean came back time and again for money and each time the government handed it over, until it was "left with virtually all of the risk but with no financial control", the report said.

The most spectacular failure of government monitoring was the totally undetected misappropriation of \$17.65 million earmarked for the car's development, it said.

About \$9 million were channelled through a Swiss bank to the United States to help Mr. De

Russian labour improves

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union announced Saturday that labour productivity for the first half of 1984 was slightly higher than the same period in 1983, during which Yuri Andropov conducted his much-publicised labour discipline campaign.

The economic figures also indicated that oil production was down slightly but natural gas, a hard currency earner, was up nine per cent over the first semester of 1983.

The figures were published in the government newspaper Izvestia, but they did not give a complete, nor comparative, picture of the Soviet economy by Western economic yardsticks. However they indicated the Soviet economy is still on the mend.

Mr. Lev Volodarskiy, chief of the Central Statistical Administration, said on an evening television news programme that labour productivity increased 4.2 per cent over the first six months of 1983. He said that the rise accounted for 95 per cent of the increased industrial output — 4.5 per cent — and was the highest figure on record for contributing to increased production.

The TASS report said at the time that the increase accounted for 96 per cent of the increase in industrial output.

Dai-Ichi Kangyo leaps to the top

TOKYO — Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank (DKB), Japan's leading commercial bank, is rapidly rising to challenge Citicorp and Bank America at the head of the world league of banks.

According to The Banker, DKB moved up five places to rank third in assets terms in 1983.

In a survey by the American Banker, DKB has already made it to the top slot.

It had assets at the end of September equivalent to \$110 billion.

Citicorp, of New York, leads The Banker 1983 league, with \$126 billion at Dec. 31, with BankAmerica, based in California, in second place with \$115 billion.

Dai-Ichi Kangyo emerged in 1971 from the joining together of Dai-Ichi Bank and Nippon Kangyo Bank.

Both were large institutions in their own right. The merged entity was, and has remained, Japan's largest bank measured by assets, deposits and branches.

It is one of the 13 "city banks", the mainstream Japanese commercial banks with mainly urban retail deposit bases.

Being number one or three in the world seems to leave some DKB executives little moved, perhaps because of probable transience. "A currency fluctuation," says one senior manager dismissively, "this year up, next year down."

Being number one in hierarchy-conscious Japan, by contrast, matters a lot to DKB. Big muscle in the Japanese capital markets helps consolidate relations with large corporate customers, while having the most branches — 345 — means DKB can at the same time sell itself to retail customers as their "grassroots" local bank.

Its branches are decorated with pink hearts, for DKB promotes itself as a "caring" institution.

DKB loan packages have names like "heart's property-ownership plan", and even "heart's two-generation relay loan," a characteristically Japanese form of credit countersigned by a parent and an adult offspring, who agree to make repayments over two lifetimes.

Internationally, DKB ranked ninth among Euroloan syndication managers in 1983.

International earnings account for 13 per cent of profits at present, says Mr. Yasukiko Ikeuchi, director and general manager of the bank's international planning division.

He would like to raise that proportion to nearer 20 per cent in the next three to five years.

However, unlike several other Japanese commercial banks DKB has not chosen to make a major acquisition in the U.S. or Europe — despite the many proposals from financial intermediaries hoping to line up an American takeover target.

The mixed fortunes of foreign institutions which did buy U.S. banks in the last five years have

allowed Mr. Ikeuchi to take some satisfaction in his cautious task.

At present, DKB has nine branches, 14 representative offices, and seven subsidiaries overseas.

Just over 35 per cent of its assets are in foreign currencies.

Asia best prospect

Mr. Hiroshi Hida, chief of Dai-Ichi's international planning department, believes the bank's best prospects for international growth lie closer to home, in Asia.

He sees good prospects for regional trade finance and international loan business centred on Hong Kong, where DKB may soon seek to upgrade to branch status.

Mr. Hida takes a sanguine view of Hong Kong's uncertain political future. If DKB has a branch in Hong Kong, and China effectively integrates the territory when Britain's lease runs out in 1997, he says, DKB would be happy to have acquired by that route a branch in China.

At present, DKB has representative offices in Peking and Shanghai, but foreign institutions are not yet allowed to do full banking business in China.

DKB, in common with Japan's other major banks, posted strong earnings growth for its 1983-84 financial year, mainly because of improved interest rates spreads and a stable domestic bond market.

However, despite the higher earnings, DKB continues to generate a relatively low rate of pre-tax profit on its total assets — 0.469 per cent, compared with 0.635 per cent for Sumitomo Bank, the most profitable of the big city banks.

Promotion

Overstaffing

DKB's low profitability is partly a legacy of the 1971 merger, which was originally conceived to generate economies of scale.

In practice, the reverse occurred. No staff were laid off and where the merger of hierarchies left two executives doing one job, the salary of the lowerpaid executive was raised to the level of his higher-paid opposite number.

One DKB executive estimates that even now, after 13 years as a merged institution, DKB is 10 per cent overstaffed relative to other banks.

Overstaffing means that DKB's general and administrative expenses, mainly wages and welfare, are proportionately higher — equivalent to 0.948 per cent of total assets in 1983-84, compared with 0.844 per cent for Fuji Bank, and 0.768 per cent for Sumitomo Bank.

DKB is streamlining, but slowly. In 1982-83, general and administrative expenses had been equal to 1.03 per cent of total assets; in 1981-82, 1.08 per cent.

But if DKB has so far failed to impress with economies of scale, it may soon be able to capitalise on its size in ways not envisaged in 1971.

New Delhi woos overseas Indians to invest in motherland

NEW DELHI (R) — India, hit by a fall in foreign aid, is doing its utmost to persuade four million expatriate Indians, with assets estimated at \$300 billion, to invest in their mother country.

India has ambitious plans to develop oil, agriculture, power supply and industry and keep its economy growing faster than its annual population growth of 2.5 per cent. But all this needs money.

It has been the single largest borrower from the World Bank and its soft loan arm, the International Development Agency (IDA), since the late 1970s. But the entry of China into the World Bank and a cut in IDA funds means that India's share of these loans is falling.

An estimated half million Indians are living in the United States with an average income of

\$45,000 a year. A similar number work in the Middle East, and other Indians are engaged in trade and commerce the world over.

"Most of this money comes from Indians working in the Middle East," one banker told Reuters. "These people do not feel secure and do not plan to settle where they are working. A bank deposit back home is security for them," he said.

But the first priority for an Indian working in the Middle East is land and a house in his native area. Land prices in the southern state of Kerala, which has sent thousands of people to the Middle East, have gone up 1,000 per cent in the last 10 years, officials said.

"Kerala people buy land, cars,

radios and video cassette recorders — there is no television station in Kerala — and go to stay in fancy hotels. They want immediate rewards, not to wait for the benefits from an investment," said Mr. Paul Joseph from Kerala who has two cousins working as engineers in Dubai.

The priorities are evident in total foreign remittance figures, up from \$5 billion in 1982 to \$7.5 billion in 1983, figures several times the amount deposited in banks.

"The government discourages this investment in land as the money does not go into more productive areas. But it is a common desire and we, not being a totalitarian state, can do nothing about it," one official said.

He said the increase in expatriate bank deposits had significantly reduced India's balance of payments deficit.

The government announced incentives to persuade expatriates to invest in Indian industry. But this had only attracted \$159 million between 1982 and March this year.

Bank deposit and investment schemes attract people who are considering returning to India, like those in the Middle East, Nigeria, East Africa and increasingly Britain, the banker said.

They have a huge range of investment choices there, so investment here is not so attractive to them," he said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NATEE
SOSYM
CERAPH
DUGIED

WHY SHE AGREED TO MARRY THE LEATHER TYCOON.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HE "O O O O O O O O O O" HER (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXUDE MUSTY KILLER TWINGE
Answer: The only thing he did fast was this — GET TIRED

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Horoscope and crosswords not received

West greets Polish amnesty with optimism

WARSAW (R) — A general amnesty for political prisoners in Poland has been greeted with measured optimism by officials in Western countries, Poland's powerful Roman Catholic Church and Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa.

The amnesty, proclaimed Saturday by parliament to mark the 40th anniversary Sunday of Communist rule in Poland, will free 51 convicted political offenders and 601 others who have been in prison awaiting trial on political charges.

However, the measure can be revoked for both political and criminal detainees who repeat offences similar to their earlier ones before the end of 1986. Polish officials said.

Officials of NATO states, which imposed economic sanctions on Poland in retaliation for the suppression of the independent trade union Solidarity in December 1981, said the West would examine the amnesty closely before moving to end the restrictions.

In Washington, the State Department called it "a positive move" but hoped to see further

steps to meet what it called the Polish people's aspirations.

A church spokesman said Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Poland's primate, "received the amnesty with great satisfaction" but had also sent parliament a confidential letter outlining certain reservations.

Informed sources said the church still regarded the return of free trade unions in Poland as a condition of full harmony in relations between Polish society and the authorities.

Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity Labour Movement formally outlawed in 1982, said the amnesty "could be a great step towards social agreement" but added it would not be fully acceptable if the freed prisoners were forced to curb their political activities.

Diplomats in Warsaw said Western governments were expected

to issue formal responses to the amnesty later this week. They said the release of prisoners would be welcomed but cautioned against expecting an immediate lifting of all sanctions.

Polish officials said some 35,000 non-political prisoners would be freed under the amnesty. Political detainees would be released within 30 days, they said.

Among the best-known prisoners who will be freed are Jacek Kuron, Adam Michnik, Zbigniew Romaszewski and Henryk Wujec, leaders of the dissident group KOR whose trial on charges of plotting to overthrow Communist rule began on July 13.

All four have always maintained their innocence of the accusations. Mr. Kuron's son, Maciek, said he welcomed the amnesty but thought his father would not give up politics once freed.

Mr. Michnik, radical intellectual who has been in conflict with the authorities since the late 1960s, has been adamant that he should be freed unconditionally or be allowed to assert his innocence in a courtroom.



Nikolai Tikhonov

Moscow will not negotiate while cruise present

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov said Saturday it was a serious mistake to think that Moscow would return to negotiations on nuclear arms while new American missiles remained based in Western Europe.

Mr. Tikhonov was speaking in Warsaw, where he addressed the Sejm (parliament) as the first senior member of the Soviet leadership to visit Poland since the unrest sparked internal crisis in the summer of 1980.

"If the United States and NATO remove the obstacles which have led to the breakdown of the Geneva talks we shall not be found wanting," Tikhonov was quoted as saying by the Soviet News Agency TASS.

"But grossly mistaken are those who hope that the Soviet Union will conduct such talks with the American nuclear missiles on station in Western Europe."

The Kremlin walked out of talks on both medium-range and strategic nuclear arms last November, declaring that the start of deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe made the negotiations meaningless.

Since then President Konstantin Chernenko has said Moscow will not return to the nuclear negotiating table until the U.S. weapons are removed.

Mr. Tikhonov said Moscow was serious in its offer to talk with Washington on preventing the arms race from spreading to space.

The Kremlin has hesitated over U.S. reaction to this offer, saying Washington wants to turn these talks into a resumption of the stalled Geneva negotiations, and is insisting on a clearly-defined agenda before agreeing to meet.

Mr. Tikhonov is leading a Soviet delegation to Warsaw for ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of Soviet recognition of the Communist Lublin Committee as the government of Poland.

He said the Warsaw Pact military alliance was the guarantee of Socialist security, which he said the "class enemy" had tried to damage in the developments of recent years in Poland.

Mr. Tikhonov said opponents of the Communist system were "making wide use of economic sanctions, mounting an unprecedented large-scale ideological aggression and making every effort to wrest Poland from its true friends and allies."

Report forecasts starvation in Africa

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Millions of Africans could starve to death unless the governments of southern African nations avert disaster by spending millions on agricultural development, according to a U.N. study released here Saturday.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) calls for "a massive concentration of human, financial and capital resources on agricultural development" in the nine-nation Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

SADCC is an economic group aimed at loosening trade and economic ties with white-ruled South Africa and promoting regional links between members — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Malawi is the only SADCC nation not on the FOA danger list of 24 African nations with half the continent's inhabitants facing starvation.

The FOA study was released before the Monday opening of the

plenary session of a 10-day conference on food in Africa. Experts from more than 40 nations plan to discuss ideas to combat the failure of "the hungriest continent in the world" to feed itself in the face of a mounting population growth.

The report recommends a gradual recovery from past disruptive trends and implies a considerable effort by individual governments in the countries which had to import almost half their cereal requirements for 1983-84, showing a heavy and growing dependency on food aid.

Duarte says Europe giving valuable support to Salvadorean democracy

LISBON (AP) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador said Saturday that Europe was giving his country valuable support in its struggle to change from a dictatorship to a democracy.

Mr. Duarte, arriving here for talks with Portuguese leaders on the fifth stop of a two-week tour of Western Europe and the United States, also said his government was prepared to negotiate with Salvadoran rebel groups.

"It is important the world understands that the Salvadoran government plans to use the legitimacy it won in elections to promote national dialogue," he told reporters.

The Salvadoran President added that the planned visit of representatives from 11 European countries to Costa Rica in September would provide "great support" for the Contadora Group —

Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama — working for peace and development in Latin America.

Mr. Duarte arrived here from London for what was described as a 24-hour working visit. He was expected to hold separate talks with President Antonio Ramalho Eanes Sunday before leaving for the United States where he will address the United Nations and confer with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Duarte, a moderate Christian Democrat who took office for five years June 1, has said his trip to Europe was aimed at explaining the political situation in his country and, in some countries, seeking financial aid.

On the eve of his arrival the Lisbon branch of the human rights group Amnesty International issued a statement saying that human

rights violations had continued in El Salvador since Mr. Duarte took office.

The statement said Salvadoran State Security Forces and Paramilitary Organisations had killed 73 civilians and government bodies had arrested 47 persons illegally since June.

Asked what progress he had made in controlling assassination squads and right-wing extremists in his country, Mr. Duarte said: "We are moving in that direction. In the last 30 days since I took office, I have not received any declarations or demands on abuses of authority."

In Bonn, Mr. Duarte received a commitment from Chancellor Helmut Kohl for \$18 million in West German aid. But he said his talks with Mrs. Thatcher did touch on the possibility of British aid.

Soviet truck in Bonn for inspection

BONN (R) — The Soviet container truck at the centre of a three-day diplomatic stalemate between West Germany and the Soviet Union rolled into the Soviet embassy compound in Bonn to let West German customs inspect its nine-tonne cargo.

The Mercedes truck, bearing the logo of the Soviet State Transport Company Sovtransauto in blue Cyrillic script, entered the hill-top estate accompanied by West German police and customs vehicles shortly after noon.

Informed sources said the Soviet Union, while bowing to Bonn's demand that it be opened, insisted that the examination take place inside the grounds of their embassy, on Soviet territory.

The truck left for Bonn early Sunday from the East German border at Helmstedt, where West German customs stopped it crossing to demand a list of contents and a look inside.

It had been held under guard at Helmstedt since Thursday while Soviet and West German officials negotiated a way out of the diplomatic impasse.

West Germany had refused to accept that the white Mercedes truck with nine tonnes of uns-

specified material sealed inside could be classified as "diplomatic baggage" immune from inspection by customs.

Switzerland also refused to let the truck unload its cargo at the Soviet mission in Geneva last week after a similar, lengthy stalemate over Swiss demands to inspect the freight.

The lorry left Geneva unopened on Wednesday.

Switzerland insisted that the lorry remain sealed and under surveillance when Soviet officials refused to open it for inspection on its way into the country.

West German media have speculated — some quoting intelligence sources — that the truck is carrying espionage equipment or smuggled western technology.

At Helmstedt Saturday, West Germany put a heavy mobile crane and other vehicles in the vehicle's path and armed border police with dogs patrolled the scene.

A statement issued by Mr. Boenisch Sunday said: "An agreement has been reached with the Soviet side over the container truck held at the Helmstedt border crossing point."

"An inspection will be carried

out by West German officials in the grounds of the Soviet embassy," it added.

The statement stressed that the inspection would be in complete accordance with regulations governing diplomatic baggage.

The West German Foreign Ministry has made it clear that under the terms of the 1961 Vienna Convention on diplomatic status, officials will only have the right to count the number of packing cases in the truck to see if they tally with a cargo list supplied by the transporting nation.

"One is not permitted to open the cases," a spokesman stressed at a news conference on Friday.

Government sources said the blockade around the truck, which bears the logo of the Soviet State Transport Company Sovtransauto in blue Cyrillic script, was removed early this morning.

The truck with its two-man Soviet crew left Helmstedt shortly after 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) on the six-hour drive south west to the federal capital.

The sources said a West German customs vehicle was leading the truck.

Pakistani minister in Peking for talks

PEKING (R) — The Foreign Minister of Pakistan arrived in Peking Sunday for talks with Chinese leaders which should be of interest to Washington, Moscow and New Delhi, Western diplomats said.

A Pakistan embassy spokesman said Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's meeting with China's Wu Xueqian was a regular annual event between the foreign ministers of two nations which have particularly close relations.

The United States has shown concern over reports of nuclear co-operation between Peking and Islamabad. Both China and Pakistan have denied such co-operation.

The diplomats said the talks would almost certainly cover the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan which has created tension along Pakistan's border.

India has been worried by the close political and military ties between China and Pakistan. The diplomats said they did not expect the nuclear issue to be raised in public. They said they anticipated that some kind of joint communiqué on Moscow's troops in Afghanistan and its support for Vietnam, which China and Pakistan condemn, would be issued during the visit.

Washington has held up a proposed Sino-U.S. nuclear energy co-operation treaty until Peking gives further assurances that it will not transfer nuclear weapon technology to third countries or condone nuclear proliferation.

China has said that Premier Zhao Ziyang's assurance that Peking would not do so is enough guarantee, Pakistan has said it is not seeking nuclear weapons.

Mr. Yaqub Khan is due to have several rounds of talks with Mr. Wu and pay courtesy calls on Mr. Zhao and Chinese President Li Xiannian, the embassy spokesman said.

He said it was not yet certain whether he would meet Chinese Leader Deng Xiaoping.

Mr. Wu Xueqian visited Islamabad for the Chinese-Pakistan talks last year.

Talks on future of Hong Kong near climax

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

PEKING — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe opens an intensified phase of negotiations with China on the future of Hong Kong this week in an attempt to clear away key obstacles to a September agreement.

With British sources in London saying that "there are still some pretty intractable issues" to sort out, the foreign secretary will arrive here on Friday to lend some political muscle to the talks which are now approaching a climax after almost two years of negotiations.

He will visit Hong Kong both on the way here and on his return journey to London to assess reaction in the thriving financial centre to proposals being discussed for the return of the British colony to China in 1997 — the year when Britain's lease on most of the territory expires.

The British appear to be attempting to put pressure on Peking by talking for the first time about the possibility of a breakdown in the talks if China does not agree to an accord acceptable to both the British Parliament and the 5.3 million people of Hong Kong.

Britain has never formally agreed to China's September deadline for a draft agreement to be initiated.

But the sources in London, who declined to be identified, said that

if there was no negotiated accord in September and talks broke down, China was expected to make a unilateral statement about its plans for Hong Kong and there would be no further negotiations on the post-1997 situation.

There would be considerable damage to confidence in Hong Kong and could be unrest as a result, they added.

Neither side has given details of the issues holding up an agreement. But informed sources in Peking said they related to arrangements for both the 13-year period up to 1997 and the subsequent 50 years.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Peking has stated that the present economic system in Hong Kong will be left basically unchanged for 50 years.

Both sides fear there could be unrest during the transition period. However, a Chinese suggestion that there should be a joint watchdog committee to oversee the 13 years has been greeted with caution in London and misgiving in Hong Kong.

There is concern in London and Hong Kong that the liaison committee could turn into a shadow government which would undermine the authority of the colony's administration during a highly sensitive period.

But Ji Pengfei, head of China's department dealing with Hong Kong affairs, has denied this, asserting that Peking does not want to interfere.

He told a visiting Hong Kong business delegation that even after 1997 the territory would have a high degree of local autonomy.

Sir Geoffrey, who last came here only three months ago, has said his trip is not a crisis visit, while the sources in London said they did not expect the foreign secretary to achieve a final breakthrough.

They did not rule out another trip before the end-of-September target date for finalising a draft agreement.

Sir Geoffrey's trip is expected to centre on the text of a possible accord. China wants it to be short and general but Britain wants it as detailed and precise as possible, to reassure the residents of Hong Kong, many of whom fled there to escape Communism.

During a visit to Hong Kong earlier this month, the British minister responsible for the territory, Richard Luce, told residents not to panic and said Britain would remain in firm control until China's takeover in 1997.

Britain has been preparing the ground for the handover by announcing plans to make the territory more democratic so that it will be ready for the self-rule promised by Peking.

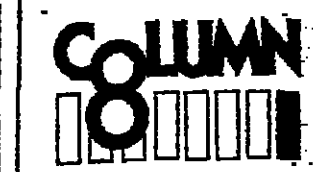
Proposals announced last week by Hong Kong's governor, Sir Edward Youde, include indirect elections to the executive and legislative councils. Hong Kong's top policy and lawmaking bodies, which are now composed of government officials and appointed non-government members.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said China was not bound by the proposals, and China's top leader Deng Xiaoping has made it clear the territory will be ruled by what he has termed "patriots" after 1997.

Mr. Deng has taken a personal interest in the Hong Kong negotiations. Asian and non-British Western diplomats in Peking say they believe London is faced with an increasingly impatient leader who regards Hong Kong as a step towards a life's ambition of achieving the re-unification of Taiwan with the Communists mainland.

Mr. Deng will be 80 next month and his age is a key factor behind fears in Hong Kong that Peking may not stick to its promised autonomy deal after he dies.

While Britain is busy negotiating, many of the diplomats say they feel the final agreement will be of little value. "It is really possible for Capitalism and Communism to co-exist in one country," as Deng is suggesting," asked one Asian diplomat. "I don't think so."



Old settlement found in Greenland

GODTHAAB, Greenland (R) — A settlement more than 4,000 years old has been discovered near Christianshøb on Greenland's western coast. Greenland Radio said Friday night. Archaeologists in a joint Greenland-Danish team uncovered the site and found a well-preserved dunghill, arrowheads and stone tools including knives dating from before 2,000 B.C. The settlement, on the island of Qeqertaa Sussuk, is among the oldest found on Greenland.

Rose Kennedy celebrates 94th birthday

HYANNISPORT, Massachusetts (AP) — Hampered by illness but surrounded by many of her family, Rose Kennedy, mother of slain U.S. President John F. Kennedy, planned to celebrate a quiet 94th birthday Sunday. "Mrs. Kennedy is still recovering from her stroke," said Brian Delaney, spokesman for Sen. Edward Kennedy, brother of the late President. Mr. Delaney said the observance at the Kennedy compound on Cape Cod will be "quiet." Mrs. Kennedy has been hospitalised in recent years for various other ailments. Her rapid recoveries regularly surprised her doctors. Despite the many family tragedies, Mrs. Kennedy's birthday often has been a social highlight of the summer and a celebration for her children and grandchildren.

Kidnapped woman rescued

WASHINGTON (R) — Edith Rosenkranz, the kidnapped wife of a wealthy retired businessman was rescued Saturday night after police arrested two men trying to take delivery of a ransom package, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said. "The victim is safe and secure, and all the ransom money was recovered," an FBI spokesman said. No details were released on the amount of the ransom or where Mrs. Rosenkranz, 60, had been kept. She was kidnapped at gunpoint in the underground garage of her hotel on Thursday. She and her husband, George, 68, were taking part in a bridge tournament here. The FBI said two men were arrested in a van on a street corner in the commercial centre of Washington, and a third man was later picked up in a Washington hotel room. Mrs. Rosenkranz was taken to a hospital for a checkup and released, the FBI spokesman said.

Author dies while jogging

HARDWICK, Vermont (R) — Author Jim Fixx, who wrote two popular books on running, died of heart failure while jogging according to an autopsy Saturday, state police said. A motorcyclist found Fixx beside a road in Hardwick, 32 kilometres north of Montpelier, the state capital, Saturday evening. He was taken to a nearby hospital but pronounced dead after attempts at resuscitation failed. Fixx, who lived in Riverside, Connecticut, was 52. His first book on jogging, *The Complete Book of Running*, was on the best-seller lists for months after it was published in 1977. A sequel, *James Fixx's Second Book of Running*, was published in 1980.

Jet comes too close to another plane

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — For the second time in four days, an Eastern Airlines jet leaving Miami flew too close to another plane because of an air traffic control error, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said. An Eastern A-300 Airbus flying to the Bahamas on Thursday came within 1.6 kilometres of a twin-engine General Aviation Nord, also on its way to the Bahamas, said FAA Spokesman Jack Barker in Atlanta. On Monday, an Eastern Boeing 727 came within 0.4 kilometres of an air force tanker jet near Atlanta, Georgia. FAA regulations require a separation of at least 8 kilometres. Mr. Barker said the Thursday incident "was by no means a near miss." He said the pilot of Eastern's flight 837 saw the Nord, and that both planes were going in the same direction. "It was an operational error of Miami Air Traffic Control," he said, and was being investigated, as are all such incidents, Mr. Barker said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK93 ♠6 ♦K104 ♠AQJ92
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A. — Don't get overly excited by your very fine hand. If partner has a minimum response with all his values in hearts, you won't come close to making game. Bid one spade. If partner can't make a voluntary rebid, you are going nowhere.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1092 ♠853 ♦KJ63 ♠A95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A. — Your vulnerable partner, in the face of two opponents who are contesting the auction, has on his own contracted for nine tricks. You have a good hand for him, but so far have said nothing. A mere preference to partner's first-bid suit doesn't do your hand justice. Jump to four spades.

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K83 ♠A10765 ♦Q5 ♠952
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A. — Your king of spades has improved in value because it is behind the overcaller. That, however, simply means that you now have maximum raise to two hearts. Take a demerit if you even briefly contemplated some other action.

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K83 ♠A10765 ♦Q3 ♠952

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Same hand, but this time you passed and partner opened in third seat. With 9 HCP and five-card support for partner's suit, you should make every effort to get to game. Jump to three hearts. Note the difference between these two problems. In Q.3, you could show your values by competing freely; here you must jump to show your strength.

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ7652 ♠8 ♦953 ♠J62
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 NT
Dble ?
What action do you take?
A. — Partner has said that he thinks he can take nine tricks at no trump. Why should you doubt him? Pass. Had partner wanted to hear about your spades, he could have doubled two hearts rather than bid three no trump.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ7 ♠AJ ♦6 ♠KJ876
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Partner probably has at least a six-card heart suit on this auction, and he has not yet limited the strength of his hand. However, you have already told the world that you have a strong hand. Therefore, you need do no more at this turn than bid four hearts. If partner is weak, that will be high enough; if he is strong, it's his responsibility to make the next move.

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